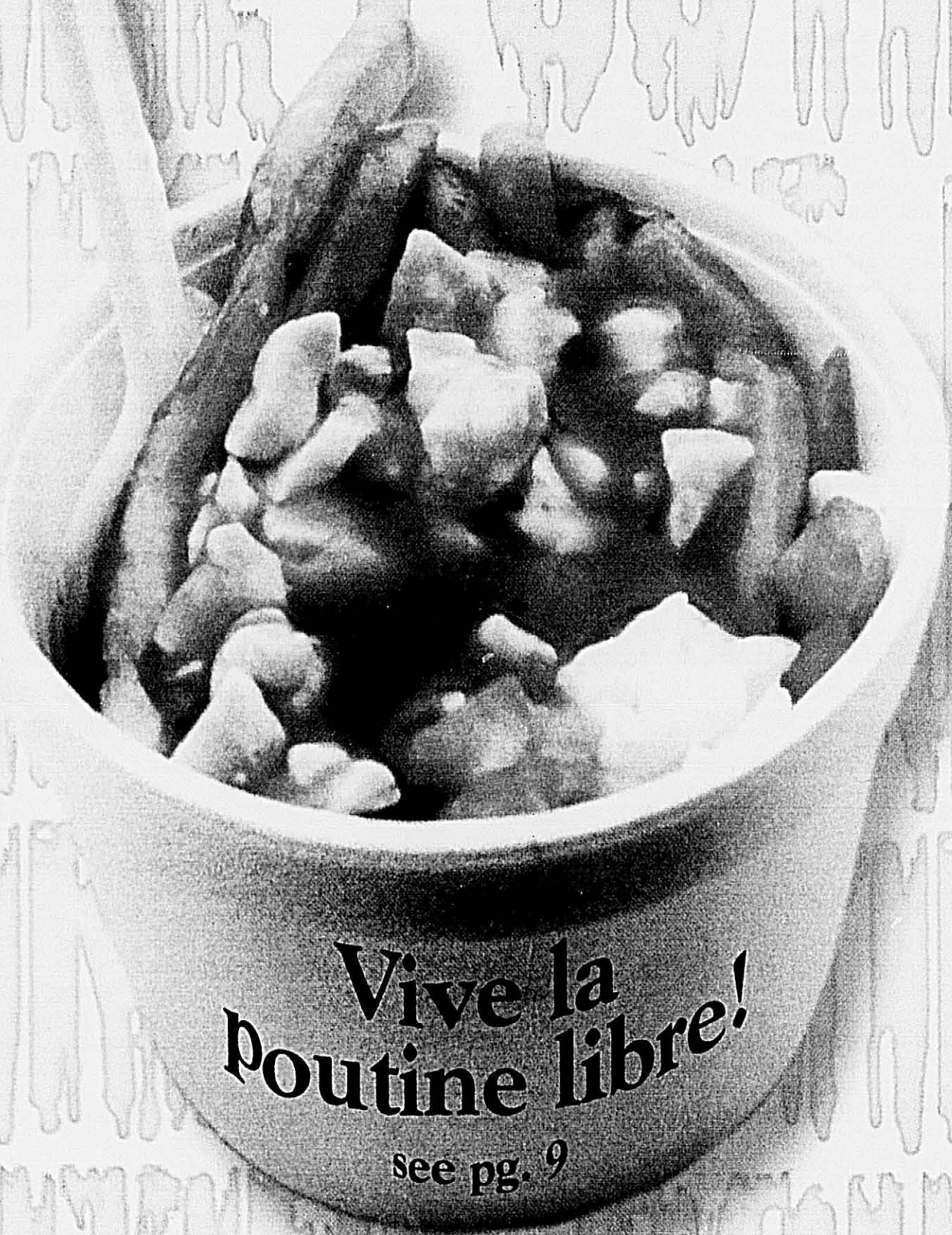


THE MCGILL DAILY

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Riding the gravy train since 1911



**Vive la
poutine libre!**

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Bank Bailouts Face Opposition

Banks say it's 'necessary compensation for risk assumed' with student loans

BY BRETT STORY

In an act of generosity that some student leaders and opposition members say is misdirected, the federal government is set to compensate three major banks to the tune of over one hundred million dollars for high default rates on student loans.

The Canadian

Imperial Bank of Commerce, the Royal Bank of Canada, and the Bank of Nova Scotia have been the three main money lending institutions since loan issuing was privatized in 1995. They will collectively benefit from what some are calling Ottawa's "bank bailout."

The compensation being negotiated will take the form of increased risk-sharing premiums paid by Ottawa to the banks, premiums that thus far have amounted to 5% of each student loan. This amount, which was decided upon when the federal and provincial governments first handed over the responsibility for student loan administration to the banks five years ago, works out to over fifty million dollars a year. The banks do not consider this adequate.

"The current risk premium being talked about doesn't cover the default rate on student loans," says Jeff Keay, spokesperson for Royal Bank.

Keay takes issue with the use of the term "bailout" for the proposed govern-

ment agreement. "It's compensation for risk assumed, which is not the same as a bailout," he says. He contends that "there are no profits; there are massive losses" absorbed by the Royal Bank as a result of student loan administration. When asked why Royal Bank bothers to maintain responsibility for student loans, he says "we see education as a good thing - it's in everyone's best interests that higher education be supported."

ment agreement.

Under the new agreement, which would be implemented under a new contract starting in August, Ottawa would instead pay a 7% risk premium up front to

the banks when the loans are made, and a 23% rate for students at private vocation schools where default rates are higher. This has many opposition members and student leaders angry and wondering about the priorities of the federal government.

banks shows that the privatization of student loans was short-sighted."

Conlon sees these latest developments as just accentuating the problems of a defunct loan system in which the students bear the financial brunt. The CFS advocates instead a comprehensive national system of grants, which Conlon believes would not only lower student debt, enabling more students to attend post-secondary institutions, but also eliminate the corporate interests of bank bureaucracies.

Gino Trifiro, a representative from Human Resources and Development Canada, defends his government's decision to privatize loan issuing. He said the over-

all national default rate has decreased from almost 30 per cent in 1994-95 to an anticipated 26 per cent in 1996-97. But he says private banking institutions still thought they could do better at collecting and now need additional loan guarantees from the federal government.

However, members of the opposition parties disagree with the Liberals and are outraged with what they see as a distorted agenda in which budget surplus is invested in big banks instead of students.

"Massive cuts of \$7 billion to education

tion plans as a solution.

"This isn't a solution to the real problems - why so many students are having to default their loans in the first place," Gawor said.

The rising costs of education (over 120% in the past 10 years) and excessively high interest rates on the current Canada Student Loan Program (CSLP) are seen by many as having made student debt increasingly unmanageable. Meanwhile, the average youth unemployment rate is 15%, well over the national average.

Gawor also doesn't think the government should be taking responsibility for the financial risks that banks have agreed to take.

"In the end the loan is between the student and the bank. If a student defaults their loan, they are breaking

a contract that they have with the bank, and the government should not be responsible for that," said Gawor.

Conlon agrees. "It's not up to Ottawa to bail out the banks if they can't perform within the parameters of their own negotiated agreements on student loans."

CIBC, Royal Bank, and the Bank of Nova Scotia have all posted profits exceeding one billion dollars in 1999.

"Taxpayers are essentially subsidizing profits of banks."

"The current risk premium doesn't cover the default rate on student loans."

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Judicial Board of Students' Society of McGill University invites applications for intervention (Form I-1) from interested parties in the matter of *Students' Society of McGill University v. Chief Returning Officer of SSMU* based on the following issues:

A. Remedies sought by Petitioner (SSMU):

1. Decision of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) of SSMU to withhold results of First-Year Students Association (FYSA) referendum must be declared unconstitutional as outside its capacity to act lawfully.
2. The FYSA referendum must be declared "clear" as per article 23.3 of the SSMU Constitution.
3. The CRO must be ordered to immediately release the results of the FYSA referendum.

B. Reference questions to the Judicial Board:

1. What is the constitutional validity of article 39.1 of the SSMU Constitution in the period preceding any amendment of the typographical error contained therein?
2. In his declaration, the CRO has alleged that articles 37.1 and 39.6 of the SSMU Constitution have been infringed, thus making the document invalid. What is the legal status of the Constitution, with regard to the CRO's allegations?

Applications can be obtained at the Front Desk of SSMU located in the Brown Student Services Building and must be submitted in the Judicial Board mailbox located at Yellow 54 in the William Shatner University Centre. Applications for intervention must be submitted by **Friday, February 4, 2000 at 17:00.**

For further information, please contact Danistan Saverimuthu, Chief Justice of the SSMU Judicial Board, at (450) 676-0959 or via e-mail at saverid@lsa.lan.mcgill.ca.

A New Direction for the United Nations

Axworthy says UN should focus more on the security of individuals

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH

Before more than a thousand university students from across North America, Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Thursday night that the United Nations must do more to protect the lives of innocent civilians around the world.

Axworthy addressed the audience as the keynote speaker at the opening ceremonies of the tenth annual McGill Model United Nations Assembly. His remarks dealt with the evolving role of the UN in establishing human security. While the security and stability of nation-states are still important, he believes that the plight of individual humans is a critical concern that has not been given enough attention.

"It is very easy to forget that the founding statement of the United Nations begins with 'We the people,' not 'We the presidents,' not 'We the ministers,' not 'We the ambassadors,' but 'We the people,'" said Axworthy. "We are now in a time when that particular essence, the quintessential fundamentals, the meaning of the United Nations is beginning to show itself."

He explained that the risks people face can arise from causes as varied as international crime and terrorism, environmental degradation, economic deprivation and the spread of infectious disease. In particular, Axworthy pointed out that the nature of armed conflict has changed over the past

century to pose many more dangers for non-combatants. In the First World War, civilian deaths accounted for five percent of total casualties; that number has jumped to 80 percent in present-day wars and skirmishes. "The safest place to be in a conflict today is the armed forces," said Axworthy, only half-joking.

Civilians, he claimed, are being increasingly exploited as tools in warfare. They are forced into military service, herded between locations to destabilize governments, and used as human shields.

In a scary twist, children are seen as especially valuable military assets. They are recruited by some armies and "used as cannon fodder by the thousand," said Axworthy. "Peacekeepers are faced with a horrible choice: do we shoot the children or do we get shot ourselves?"

The gross abuses of young people by armed forces has not passed unnoticed. Axworthy feels that a great initiative currently underway is the development of rules regulating the recruitment and deployment of

children in militaries. Nevertheless, as long as "national sovereignty is being used as a masquerade and a camouflage for bad governance", Axworthy thinks that the trend towards higher civilian and child casualties

ism at millennial celebrations and the dirty drug trade in Vancouver are examples of the dangers faced by Canadians.

"We all have a stake in this. Nobody lives in a fire-proof house," said Axworthy.

"Human security risks, in a sense, bring the United Nations as an organization out of high politics and diplomacy down to the kitchen table and the doorstep."

Another recent challenge to the UN is the view of some Americans who question the organization's utility; this is the mindset of several Republicans in

Congress who have succeeded in delaying the country's payment of over a billion dollars in arrears to the UN. Their hardline stance was expressed a little over a week ago by radical right-wing Senator Jesse Helms at a meeting of the Security Council.

Helms told the Council members that they must not allow the UN to overstep its bounds and imperil American support, since the US is the only reliable guarantor of world peace and security. Axworthy, in an interview

with *The Daily* after his speech, downplayed the impact of Helms' comments.

"There was nothing surprising, in that he said everything he has said before. But I think it was useful to have him there to listen to the responses. He doesn't usually hear the other side of the case. What I think was very important was that Secretary of State (Madeleine) Albright was at the Security Council on Monday to make it clear that it is the administration that speaks for the US and not Senator Helms.

"There is a strain of thought among certain Senators and Congressmen that is of an isolationist, anti-internationalist point of view. But I think the United States has had such a great history of supporting the United Nations and I know that Albright and President Clinton are in that school of thought. Still, recognizing that there are differences, I am convinced that the United States will always be in the UN."

Also speaking at the open ceremonies on Thursday night was Geoffrey Pearson, the son of former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and an accomplished diplomat in his own right. Pearson stressed the significance of the UN as a body fostering international collaboration and collective security. He echoed the sentiments of his father, saying that the "UN must be a symphony, not a string quartet," even if the orchestra is conducted by a few major leaders like the United States.



Axworthy addresses students at Model UN Assembly

will be difficult to counter.

Axworthy strongly asserted that the issue of human security is not limited to the developing world, but is a matter which affects all countries and all people. He elicited several recent examples to demonstrate Canada's vulnerability. The hostage taking of Shirley Macklin from Winnipeg in the Air India hijacking, the kidnapping of Albertan oil workers in Ecuador, the potential for terror-

Does Millennium Scholarship Money Hurt More Than It Helps?

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

When most students receive a \$3,000 cheque from the government they are ecstatic. But not law student Colleen Handy.

Last week, the Carleton University student announced she is rejecting her \$3,000 Millennium Scholarship. "I am turning down the Millennium Scholarship because, at best, it leaves me no better off," she said.

Handy says the scholarship brings her no further ahead, since the money would only replace provincial loan forgiveness bursaries to which she was entitled before being offered a Millennium Scholarship. Because all but \$500 of her scholarship is taxable, unlike the bursary, accepting the scholarship would actually end up costing her money.

"At first I was excited to have received \$3,000. But as I read the fine print, it became clear that I would never even see the money, as it is supposed to be paid directly to my bank," Handy said. "Then I found out that most of the scholarship is taxable, and now I am worrying about whether or not I will have to pay more tax next year."

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), which is supporting Handy in her rejection of her scholarship, has charged that the Millennium Foundation is part of a political move by Ottawa to appear serious about addressing student debt

issues.

"The federal government has spent a lot of money promoting a boutique program that offers very limited assistance to students," said Michael Conlon, National Chairperson of the CFS. "It is outrageous that federal funds have been devoted to Millennium Scholarships in Ontario that will leave some students with a liability instead of a benefit." According to the CFS, eight per cent of Canadian students will receive money from the Millennium Foundation, even though more than half these students have student loans. The fact that students lucky enough to receive a scholarship have to pay tax on it only adds insult to injury, says the Federation.

"The Canadian Federation of Students calls upon the federal government to, at the very least, renegotiate the Millennium Scholarship agreements signed with the provinces and to make the scholarship tax exempt," said Conlon. "The Ontario Millennium Scholarship debacle makes it clear that we need a comprehensive system of grants and lower tuition fees, not a public relations charade from the federal government."

Wojtek Baraniak, SSMU vice-president (Community and Government) is similarly angered by the way the current tax system penalizes needy students. He is working hand in hand with the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations in their lobby to amend the Income Tax Act as it pertains to student scholarships, which

hasn't been amended since 1971 despite skyrocketing tuition rates and student debt loads.

"How can the government give you money with one hand and then take it away with the other, all while claiming to help students?" asked Baraniak. "Young Canadians realize this ironic situation, but does [Federal Finance Minister] Paul Martin?" Baraniak has collected more than 1,000 signatures from students demanding that the Income Tax Act be amended, and will be writing a letter to Martin this week.

For their part, the leadership at the Millennium Foundation have also been lobbying the federal government to make the scholarships tax deductible. They argue, however, that any savings that provincial loan programs gain as a result of Millennium Scholarship infusions will be directly reinvested into student aid programs.

The Millennium Scholarship Foundation was created in 1997 by Ottawa, with a \$2.5-billion grant. The money will be distributed to 100,000 students a year for the next 10 years.

The Foundation has signed agreements with all Canadian provinces to use existing needs assessment programs, in order to eliminate administrative overlap. Scholarships, which typically amount to \$3,000 each, either go straight into the pockets of students, or towards their existing debt, depending on the province.

Quebec recipients let down by letters

When Glen Hansman received a letter last Thursday telling him that he had been awarded \$3,132, he was thrilled.

"I did a leap in the air when I read that letter," the U4 Education student said. However, as one of the 82,000 Quebec recipients of Canada Millennium Scholarships, he was in for a nasty surprise. At the bottom of the letter, Hansman was informed that his actual award would simply replace one he had been given several months before by the Government of Quebec.

"It turns out that I'm not actually getting anything. All the foofaraw about these scholarships is bogus. The only difference I can see is a reduction in my loan payments of about \$400," said Hansman.

The Student Aid office at McGill confirmed that many students have been finding this out and they are often quite upset about it.

"We've had about ten to twenty calls about it, and a number of student have come in to see us," said Ann Jack, an

information clerk in the Aid office.

Cory Huhn, a public relations officer at the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation, explains that the letters are technically correct, even though he admits that they may give the wrong impression.

"What ever amount is on the letter is how much the student will be getting from us. In Quebec, that may go into the pre-existing loan program."

Huhn said that the letters at issue try to explain the situation.

"Since Quebec was the last [province to accept Millennium Scholarship money], we had a Catch-22 situation. In other provinces, we didn't mention the displaced funds, so students didn't know where the money was. We tried to be more explicit in Quebec."

Hansman has expressed his frustration with the whole situation in a letter to Executive Director Norman Riddell of the Foundation, urging him to stop sending out "cruel notes to students" who need financial help.

—Ben Errett



Pierre-Alain Parfond

The Changing Role of the Peacekeeper

BY SAMIRA RAHMANI

Chief of Defence Staff General Maurice Baril outlined the changing nature of international peacekeeping to a sparse group of Model United Nations participants last Wednesday. After a poignant introduction given by Dean of Law Stephen Toope, Baril spoke of the increasingly complex and changing role of peacekeepers in the 1990s.

Baril pointed to the 1974 missions in Cypress, whose nature shifted from cease-fire monitoring to combat, as the first example of international peacekeeping becoming a "very dangerous business."

He characterized the post Cold War 1990s as one in which the "the New World Order [was beginning] to look like a New World disaster" with the collapse of states and the outbreak of civil wars across the globe.

Citing United Nations missions in Eastern Zaire and Croatia, Baril highlighted the increasing role that the international community was playing in influencing the outcome of such conflicts. This new, more active role that the UN was taking in such missions, Baril insisted, took away its impartiality but allowed it to more efficiently achieve peace and address the root issues of conflict.

On his role as Canadian Chief of

Defence, he outlined not only his commitment to training soldiers to act as mediators but also to extending their role to include working with non-military organizations to assist in the rebuilding of ravaged states.

General Baril was appointed Chief of Defence Staff in 1997 after an extensive military career which began in 1963. He outlines his views on the Canadian initiative to establish a UN rapid reaction force, which would increase the effectiveness of future peace support operations, in the inaugural edition of the McGill International Review.

Should We Accept the Invitation?

Student leaders debate the merits of attending the PQ's Youth Summit

BY JULIEN LAPLANTE

Tempers flared at Concordia University last Thursday as four participants in the upcoming Sommet du Québec et de la Jeunesse debated the worth of Quebec's second summit on the state of its youth.

The conference, organized by Concordia's School of Community and Public Affairs, featured representatives from four different groups. Daniel Baril, the president of the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec (FEUQ), said clearly that he was going to the Summit "to defend the interests of the students." Resorting to traditional student rhetoric, Baril told the audience that "For the FEUQ, the Summit must not be a summit of the GDP."

Those objectives are not the same for the Fédération des Travailleurs du Québec (FTQ), whose representative, Jacques Théorêt, said that the FTQ, which includes a fistful of young workers in its ranks, was going to the Summit in order to defend the interests of young and unionized workers.

Théorêt, maybe paradoxically, emphasized the need to push forward the "interests of the whole society" and not to fall into corporatism. A daunting task when accounting for the wide diversity of "young" interests that will be present at this Summit, ranging from students and teenagers to those of 30 year old unionized workers.

While some groups have clearly defined members — students for the FEUQ and workers for the FTQ — other groups such as Forces Jeunesse, whose president Martin Koskinen was present at the discussion, defend the interest of young workers, unionized or not.

"I hope that there will be a parallel summit" said Koskinen, when questioned about the efficiency of going to the Summit in order to influence the government policies. The FTQ and Théorêt do not expect big results from the Summit. "Our expectations are minimal." The FEUQ, even though it does not believe that the Summit will yield concrete results, believes that it is better to be inside than outside of the negotiations.

Some of the harshest criticisms in the audience came from representatives of groups that either have not been invited to the Summit, such as the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the rad-

ical Mouvement pour le Droit à l'éducation (MDE). These groups reject the strategy of participating to the Summit, fearing that it could legitimize a government that they see as the gravedigger of the Quebec public education system.

Phil Ilijevski, a member of the CFS asked the participants why they were going to the summit since the last Summit two years ago did not seem to influence government education policies at all.

"It is time to push on and mobilize... you should boycott this summit" yelled

“Our expectations are minimal.”

Ilijevski, who thinks that only demonstrations and a general boycott of the summit could influence the government. This opinion was shared by David Bernans, a researcher at Concordia Students Union, who asked the panellists why they were going to the Summit if they did not expect anything to come out of it.

Baril's organization represents 17 student societies in Québec, although it won't speak for the largest students' society of UQAM, which decided to opt out of the FEUQ for the Summit. Baril explained that even though the FEUQ was going to Quebec city, it believed that it still retained a certain power over the government. He underlined the need for a dual strategy, both within and without the summit. "We participate in the Summit, but we are not going to be held hostages there" explained Baril. This is an opinion that is shared by Théorêt, who stated that the FTQ is "going to the Summit because the government has invited us. However, if the government does not deliver what we are expecting, we might easily quit the negotiation table, and that might hurt."

The most realistic account of what could be expected to come out of the summit was probably illustrated by Louis Grenier of the Regroupement québécois des coopérateurs et coopératrices du travail, cooperatives which give work to teenagers, when he described anyone who expected concrete solutions to arise from the summit as a "grand naïf."

Universities to Face Even More Challenges in Years to Come: Study

BY KATHY RAMSEY

WINNIPEG (CUP) - If Canadian universities thought the past decade of funding cuts put strain on their facilities, resulting in crumbling infrastructures, reduced faculty, and larger class sizes, the next 10 years could prove even more challenging.

According to studies by the Association of Universities and Colleges Canada (AUCC), student enrolment will increase 20 per cent by 2010. This increase is partly the result of the "baby-boom echo" — the children of baby-boomers who are set to reach university age — but also is due to the growth of an economy in which an increasing number of jobs require a university education.

"Since 1992 enrolment has been fairly stable, but when you're going to have roughly a 20 per cent [enrolment] increase in ten years... that's going to put considerable strain on the resources of the universities," said Jeff Morrison, government relations policy analyst at AUCC.

"Unless governments are prepared to invest in post-secondary institutions, the next ten years could be worse than the last ten, simply because the pressure will be that much greater."

Over the next ten years, the AUCC

argues, universities will also have to hire as many faculty as they have right now — or 32,000 new hired professors — due to a huge wave of retirements.

"Most of the faculty and professors that are in universities today were hired in the '60s and '70s, and therefore in the coming decade we'll see this bulge moving into their retirement years. We'll need to replace them, so there will be this hiring binge," said Morrison.

Paul Fortier, University of Manitoba Faculty Association president, says many departed staff at the Winnipeg university were not replaced during the years of government cutbacks.

"There's too large a proportion of our people that are over 50, and not everyone who retires or moves on is replaced," said Fortier. "That means that a student, instead of getting a 50th of a professor's time, gets a 100th of a professor's time because a professor is responsible for more students. That's not good."

While tuition fees have risen across Canada an average of 125 per cent in the last 10 years, these fee increases have only offset half of the funding cuts in that same time period, according to the AUCC.

To help deal with the pressures of the next ten years, and the results of the funding cuts of the last ten, the AUCC is proposing a three-fold solution to the

Federal Finance Committee for the upcoming federal budget.

The AUCC is asking Ottawa to restore transfer payments to the provinces to the tune of \$2 billion this year, with staged increases in subsequent years and increased support for basic research.

But despite these recommendations and those of various other post-secondary education representatives, universities don't look like they're going to get much new in the February federal budget.

The Federal Finance Committee, in their final report to the federal government in December, made no recommendation for increased education funding.

Morrison says the AUCC remains optimistic, but he points out that the consequences could be severe across Canada if funding to post-secondary institutions isn't restored.

"The gap is widening between Canada and the States," said Morrison. "The pressures are there. If we want to keep up to the rest of the world we have to start investing."

According to a study released last month and commissioned by Andrew Petter, British Columbia's minister of Advanced Education, government support per student went up ten per cent between 1993 and 1998 in the United States, while in Canada such support dropped 20 per cent.

Towards a New Federalism?

Peter White thinks we should accommodate all nationalities in Canada, but assures us there are really only two

BY MICHELLE DEAN

Only a sparse crowd of students and academics were on hand to contemplate McGill alumnus Peter White's curious views of federalism last Wednesday night as he delivered the James Mallory Annual Lecture in Canadian Studies. Professor Desmond Morton of the McGill Institute for the Study of Canada carefully labelled the lecture "challenging and innovative" in his introduction; many of White's opinions were indeed under intense scrutiny by the end of his visit.

A self-described "conservative and Canadian businessman," White's long roster of affiliations reads like a who's who of the Canadian right. He currently sits on the steering committee of the United Alternative movement, and founded, along with media baron Conrad Black, the Southam newspaper corporation. He also heads up the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) and worked for former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in the early 1980s. White also holds seats on the board of directors of a long list of corporations.

White's concern in his lecture, however, was not for the future of Canadian conservatives, but rather his own peculiar theory of federalism. The title of his talk, "How Canadians Can Become Born-Again Federalists and Save the World," shows the

rather vast ambition of his views. White told his small audience that "...Canadians, because of our uniquely successful experience within a federal arrangement, should become evangelists of a new federalist gospel."

Now in an age in which ethnicity and religion have replaced territory as the basis of identity, White argued that federalists should succumb to what he termed "identity politics" and allow ethnicity and religion to operate as the basis of government jurisdiction as well. Citizens of a given country could, under White's model, simply choose their second level of government according to their identity. This "enlightened principle" for determining jurisdiction would ensure that the rights of all ethnic groups would be protected, since each group would govern itself.

White further contended that Canada already had ample experience with such a system with the existence of separate Catholic school boards. Currently it is up to an individual household whether they choose to pay taxes to public or separate Catholic school boards. Another step towards this enlightened federalism, he

argued, was the recent signing of the Nisga'a treaty which will create a form of aboriginal self-government.

Many of the academics present asked

analysis of the presence of separate Catholic school boards. Professor Morton, however, while admitting that the example was "unflattering," pointed out that a similar situation existed in China before the Second World War under the hated policy of extraterritoriality, which allowed foreigners to have their own schools and laws in certain areas.

The other main question about White's theory was the extent to which it would recognize the multiplicity of identities existing in Canada today.

White argued that any minority which felt discriminated against was worthy of such self-government. A professor from the Université de

Montréal asked how far White was willing to take his scheme when it came to the issue of language. Would he include Italians as a group worthy of self-government in Canada, for example?

"We only have two official languages," White replied in French, "...I have no sympathy for anyone who tries to tell me that their unofficial language should have the same status as English or French."

questions of White, who was frequently aided by Professor Morton in his responses. Some pointed out the problems posed by the policing of such communities, where law enforcement would only hold jurisdiction over those who belonged to their identity group. White replied that the benefits of eliminating the possibility of discrimination outweighed possible confusion.

When asked to give a precedent of this kind of government being pursued anywhere else, White returned to his earlier



White: Canadians should espouse "a new federalist gospel."

Peter White

news-briefs



SSMU TO OBSERVE SUMMIT

The Students' Society of McGill University has been invited as observers to the upcoming Sommet de la Jeunesse being put together by the Quebec government. Seventy youth and non-youth organizations are set to have official places around this roundtable which will discuss the role of young people in the province. The observer status that the SSMU has been given allows it to express its views outside of sessions but will prevent it from having a direct voice at the table. At last Thursday's SSMU meeting, President Andrew Tischler expressed his concern that the summit and SSMU's position within it may be token and questioned attending

-Samira Rahmani

CONDITIONAL FUNDING FOR UNIVERSITIES

Quebec Education Minister François Legault recently announced his intention to increase funding to the province's universities by 160 to 300 million dollars in the next budget. Legault calls this a "performance contract" since this support comes laden with conditions which would have to be met by the universities in order to receive the funding.

Under such a plan, the allotment of funds would be conditional on the attainment of certain measurable standards of efficiency, said Legault. However, he did not specify the means by which such standards of efficiency would be decided and implemented.

Legault explained his intended actions by pointing out that university professors in Québec have lighter workloads than their counterparts in Ontario, in spite of comparable salaries. Why, asked the Minister, shouldn't professors who are doing less research be capable of holding an increased teaching load?

Foreseeing the disapproval that this would create among the province's university professors' unions, Legault clarified his position: "It is not a matter of taking away from professors, instead we hope to make gains in efficiency."

A more complete publication, outlining the government's policy toward universities, will be released in the next few weeks.

-Mark Eaton

J BOARD REACHES DEAL WITH SSMU

Despite what the advertisement on page 2 says, the Students' Society has resolved its dispute with Chief Returning Officer Paul Flicker. The dispute centred on Flicker's declaration that the SSMU was operating on an invalid constitution. Under the terms of the agreement, Flicker has withdrawn his petition to the Judicial Board, while SSMU has recognized the validity of his claim. The current constitution has been granted temporary validity until May of this year.

-Ben Errett

CFS Plans National Day of Action

PGSS, SSMU to work with CFS to organize McGill protest

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

The SSMU and the Post-Graduate Students' Society have teamed up with the Canadian Federation of Students to organize a day of action and protest to be held at McGill February 2.

The protest is part of the CFS' Access 2000 campaign, which is calling on the federal government to re-invest almost \$4 billion into post secondary budgets, eliminate education-related user fees, and reduce student debt loads.

"We are asking the federal government to re-invest in social programs, including education, and to work with provincial governments to reduce tuition rates," said Elizabeth Carlyle, National Deputy Chairperson for the CFS.

According to the CFS, \$7 billion has been cut from post-secondary budgets since 1993, the year that the Liberals came into power federally. Since that time, tuition rates have almost doubled, and the average student debt rate has tripled. So while universities cancel courses, cut back on libraries, and increase class sizes, students are paying more and receiving less, says the CFS.

The federal government is forecasting a budgetary surplus of \$12 billion dollars for

the current fiscal year, and the CFS wants to see some of this money injected back into the post-secondary system. Carlyle cites a recent study commissioned by Human Resources Development Canada, which found that 55% of Canadians said they would prefer re-investment to tax cuts.

"There is clearly a widespread support among Canadians of a high quality, affordable education system," said Carlyle.

Kate Meier, External Affairs Co-ordinator for the PGSS, agrees. "We'll be marching for increased funding back to 1994 levels, especially in light of recent budget surpluses that have been projected," she said.

"This is what Canadians want. They don't want more tax cuts. They want to see their money benefit all Canadians," she added.

The PGSS is trying to raise awareness about issues facing the post-secondary education system in light of the cutbacks,

and soaring student debt loads. They are organizing an information session on the day of the event and will be encouraging McGill students to come to the demonstration that will follow.



A CFS rally in Vancouver earlier this year

"We want students to make connections between funding issues at McGill," said Meier. "From our underfunded libraries, to the McGill College International, to the Cold Beverage Agreement, we want students to get involved in issues that affect them," she added.

"On February second, we'll be marching for something we believe in," said Meier. "We'll be showing the government that students do care."

Even though the SSMU is not a member of the CFS, and did not participate in the last CFS day of action in October, it will be taking part of next Wednesday's event.

"I've always stated that the SSMU is

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The Greatest Show on Earth

comment



BY SAMIRA RAHMANI

Thursday evening SSMU meetings have been a staple of my life for most of this academic year. Last Thursday's meeting was markedly different from all the others. Exceptional not because it lasted over three hours but because I left the meeting in an absolute state of disarray. I was disappointed, angered, and frustrated. Above all these emotions however, I was saddened to see the lack of direction and focus within the council.

I have left many meetings in the past frustrated with the tremendous amounts of procedure and protocol that bog down this aspect of the organization. At this

particular meeting however, my frustration stemmed primarily from the discussions held during the informal Committee of the Whole Session. Some of the topics to be discussed were the Cold Beverage Agreement (CBA), McGill College International (MCI) and the recent breach of confidentiality by a Senator. I geared myself up for a debate that I hoped would be educated and constructive. What I got instead was garbage.

Discussions centred around the privatization of this institution and the proposed MCI were lengthy and not in the least constructive. Very few people around the table were informed enough to even discuss it, and those that did speak to it often became sidetracked with their own rhetoric.

As discussion turned to the CBA and the possibility of a referendum question on the issue, the recent comments of VP Operations Kevin McPhee were brought up. The comments that he made are serious

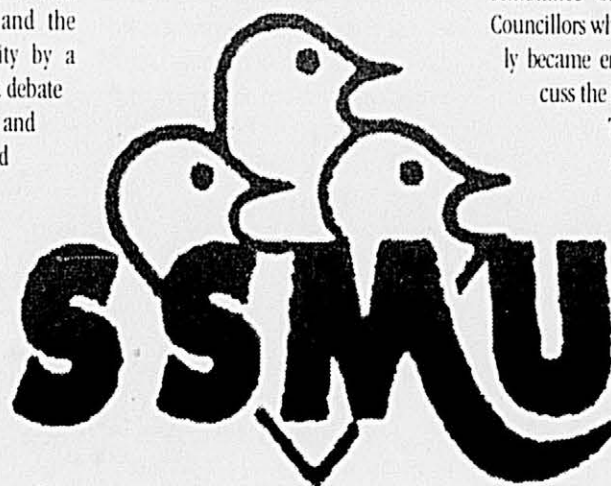
and even if said in frustration are irresponsible and offensive. What offended me above and beyond McPhee's actual comments was the behaviour of some of the other councillors. At one point I looked

the members around that table belittled it further when they treated it as a joke.

When discussion turned to the recent leak of confidential information to The Daily, I was pleasantly shocked to find a semblance of passion fill the room. Councillors who are usually silent suddenly became impassioned enough to discuss the issue.

Too much of this meeting and indeed many of the other SSMU council meetings have been dominated by the outspoken members and the executive. There are certain councillors voices I have heard only twice since September. It must be the goal of all the members of that council

to try to make the discussions and debates more focussed and more informed. And maybe, oh maybe, bring into that room some of the passion that you let me taste last Thursday.



20 years ago: Jean Chrétien, Liberal Party critic for federalism and former minister of finance, spoke to an audience of 300 students about federalism and the upcoming federal election campaign. He criticized prime minister Joe Clark's incumbent government, dissolved in December when the Tories' budget bill failed to pass the House of Commons. Chrétien said the budget's mortgage tax deductions would increase the disparity between the rich and poor in Canada, and called instead for "a government that can redistribute wealth in this land, so that there are not two Canadas in Canada: One for the poor and one for the rich."

Also in the news, McGill's Senate voted to let individual departments decide if they would make teaching evaluations public. Student senators initially supported the move on the understanding that teaching evaluations covered a much wider range than student-input evaluations. But when it became apparent that Senate would not entertain a student-led motion to distinguish between the two, student senator Brad Armstrong motioned to reconsider the original decision.

Stephen Lazer, The Daily's film critic, offered his choices for the best and worst films of 1979. The winners included German director Rainer Fassbinder's energetic *The Marriage of Maria Braun* and Oscar-winner *Kramer vs. Kramer*. Top dishonours went to *Star Trek* and *Apocalypse Now*.

40 years ago: A new national corporate tax provided funds for the federal government to offer McGill a one-time \$6-million grant. The amount included a cumulative backlog of nearly \$4.5-million that McGill

had refused over three previous years on the advice of Quebec premier Maurice Duplessis.

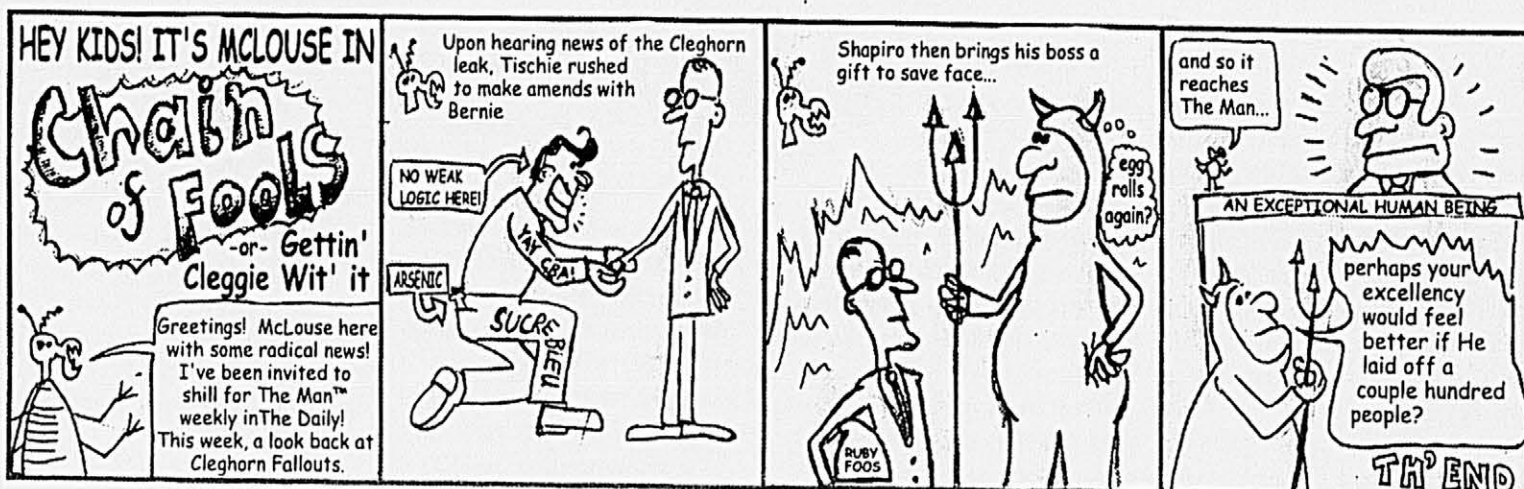
McGill law student and current Quebec Court of Appeal Justice Morris Fish teamed up with fellow law student Ralph Ordower in a debate against two inmates of the Massachusetts Correctional Institute in Norfolk, Mass. Fish and Ordower took the negative position on the resolution "that capital punishment should be abolished." Their opponents William Lepera, serving a five-year sentence for a fraud conviction, and George Nassar, serving a life sentence for second-degree murder, won the debate. Lepera and Nassar argued that capital punishment was an ineffective deterrent and that it violated the humanitarian standards of civil society.

Also in the news, The Daily reported that the Students' Executive Council passed a motion to look into the creation of a student court. A three-member committee was struck to assess the idea. Current Member of Parliament and McGill Law Professor Irwin Cotler sat on the committee.

60 years ago: The Daily reported that McGill parasitology student Duncan McDonald was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for graduate study at Oxford University, England. McDonald was a fourth-year undergraduate in the faculty of agriculture at McGill's Macdonald campus and president of the Macdonald Students' Council. He planned to use his scholarship to continue his studies in entomology and biology. In particular, he wished to investigate potential uses of parasitic invertebrates to control agricultural pests.

In other news, the Canadian Student Assembly prepared for a nation-wide poll of 45,000 university students to assess their feelings about conscription. Ottawa announced that radio speeches during the coming federal election campaign would be censored for war-related content, but not content of a purely political nature. In Europe, The Daily reported that German airplanes bombed 14 British naval ships in a 3-hour raid along the east coast of Britain. In Paris, French premier Daladier claimed that his country's famed Maginot Line was the "sole bulwark of liberty."

McLOUSE by Steve Barker



letters



SSMU DOESN'T GET DEMOCRACY

It seems that the student council needs a brief reminder about the nature of a representative democracy.

You do not tell us what we think. You do not try to control what we may write. When you do these things, you are slipping into dictatorship and risk revolt.

Did anyone notice that the only two (excessively verbose) letters that opposed The Daily's editorial stance came from SSMU high muckamucks? When the representatives' opinions are so divergent from — indeed, directly opposed to — those of their electorate, something is clearly wrong.

As to the issues, higher education is meant to be the provision of the tools to function as a citizen in a democracy, which is a basic human right. Concomitant with the rise of universities as corporate-ladder-climber apprenticeship zones, students are in larger and larger numbers being roped into debt by the big banks, who identify students as future cash sources rather than citizens with rights.

This means that rich people end up more able to function as citizens than poor people. (By the way, the inevitability argument does not wash with those of us who have read Linda McQuaig's *The Cult of Impotence*.)

The heads of institutions that are so blatantly at cross-purposes with higher

education and democratic government do not deserve the honours of either.

Matthew McLaughlin
First-year Arts (Linguistics)

BARANIAK V. TANGUAY-RENAUD CONT'D

Re: "Is Baraniak Uncomfortable?" (letters, Jan. 17) — The only thing I am uncomfortable with are the numerous fallacies in François Tanguay-Renaud's argument.

The first and perhaps most distressing false claim made is that the SSMU joined the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations without any student consultation. Quite to the contrary. If Mr. Tanguay-Renaud had properly researched his assertions, he would have discovered that there have been two plebiscites on CASA at McGill, one organized by the SSMU and the other by the AUS, in 1995 and 1996 respectfully. Both passed with considerable ease.

Likewise, every single election race for SSMU VP External since 1995 has seen CASA membership as the primary issue. In fact, the 1994-95 election campaign was fought primarily on CASA membership. That election resulted in a victory of 65 per cent to 24 per cent for the candidate who endorsed CASA. I might add that since then, every single VP External has been a major CASA supporter.

Thus, for the last several years the students at McGill have consistently placed students who support CASA in office. If that is not enough, then even Mr. Tanguay-Renaud can attest that the SSMU Council overwhelmingly supports CASA. There is a clear history of demonstrated support for CASA at McGill.

The claim is made that based on "my advice," CASA is a Federalist organization. Let me remind Mr. Tanguay-Renaud that I have

been one of the staunchest advocates of SSMU's neutrality on the issue of national unity.

Nevertheless, CASA is an organization that lobbies the federal level of government; the federal government controls billions of dollars in surpluses and transfers billions of dollars to the provinces for education. Simply stated, Ottawa controls the money. One must not deny reality!

In order to lobby effectively — i.e. get what you want — one must accept the current state of affairs. Canada has a federal system of government; to deny this would be asinine. Student organizations must present their message in such a manner that convinces the government that change is necessary.

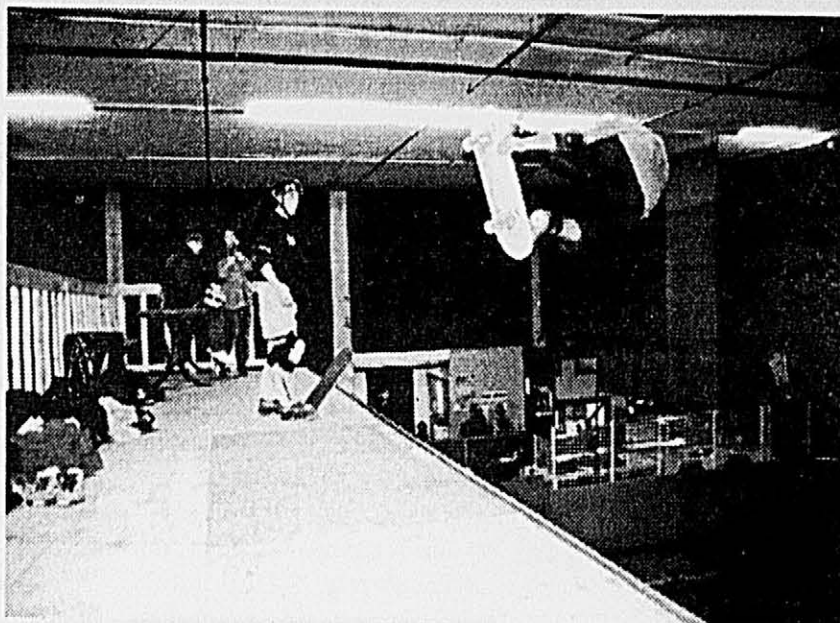
I agree with Mr. Tanguay-Renaud on the point that students have the right to be represented. However, I also believe that student leaders should truly represent their constituents. It is time for you to stop second-guessing the will of McGill undergraduate students. The SSMU is firmly behind CASA, as are the majority of McGill's undergraduate students.

Wojtek Baraniak
Vice President Community and
Government Affairs

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

McGill students are starting to make the links between chronic federal under-

CAMPUS EYE by Pierre-Alain Parfond



Professional French skateboarder Sebastien Daurel was flying high in Montreal on Tuesday night at the Taj Mahal

funding to post-secondary education and events right here on our very own campus. We are questioning the long-term impact of exclusivity deals and reacting to the proposed McGill College International. These questions are being raised at the very time when students have an opportunity to come out and express their opinions about public and accessible education.

The federal government is projecting a budget surplus and is now trying to decide who will benefit. The time is now to look around and realize that the institutions that we value, such as education, health care, and the social safety network are crumbling around us and need to be reinvigorated.

We have to acknowledge that unless we speak up, Ottawa will bend to the will of the few and powerful and institute tax cuts rather

than reinvest in what makes us all rich.

On Wednesday, students at McGill, Concordia, UQAM and others will don their woolly hats and thermal underwear so that we in Montreal and in Quebec can join others all over the country to show the government what our priorities really are.

For more information about the connections between underfunding and the erosion of the public system of post-secondary education, go to the main campus for hot chocolate and information on Wednesday at 12:30 pm. The march will leave the Roddick Gates at 1:30.

Kate Meier
External Affairs and Governmental
Relations Coordinator PGSS
external@pgss.mcgill.ca

DAILY WRITERS' MEETINGS

NEWS:

MONDAY 4:00 TO 6:00PM

CULTURE:

FRIDAY 3:30 PM

PHOTOGRAPHY:

MONDAY 5:00PM

ALL MEETINGS IN SHATNER B-03

MERELY Musing



ZACHSKY

WILL RETURN
ON THURSDAY

Global Scamming Ads



BY JEFF CARREIRO

Forget about differential tuition and the Coke deal. There is a sinister, underhanded plot being carried out as we speak.

The Global Television Network has a deal with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission allowing them to feed off of another station's programming while smothering adequate American advertising with Canadian drivel.

Anyone who has watched the NFL playoffs lately has seen the same bloody Global commercials run during every commercial break for the entire day, regardless of whether they are tuned into Global, FOX, or CBS. Yesterday, Global ruined the Super Bowl, as they have for the past three years.

How, you may ask? By running the same garbage they always do, which becomes increasingly irritating the more often you see it.

How much did Global pay in order to wipe out my right to personal choice? What

right does Global have to force me to watch a promotion for the same substandard show every 10 minutes, for the extent of my viewing time?

Sponsors paid \$2-million for 30 seconds of airtime during the Super Bowl. Their ads are thoughtful, imaginative and genuinely funny. Everyone across North America will be talking about their favorite ad today. Entertainment Tonight will poll viewers to see which commercial was most successful in entertaining the public and in turning North America on to their product. The economic well-being of the biggest, most influential companies in North America hangs in the balance.

But, for some reason, I never got to see these ads, nor did anyone in Montreal. We got to hear about Jamie Orchard's morning show instead.

I wish I could contact Global without expecting to have my letter recycled or my email deleted. For that matter, I wish I knew where to contact them in the first place. I wish I could watch 10 minutes of my show without seeing that *Addams Family* promo. I wish I could meet a Global executive face-to-face so I could voice my disgust over his willingness to blanket my few hours of television with what amounts to visual diarrhea.

Of course, what am I complaining about? It's only a commercial.

Hyde Parks are your space to rant. Send submissions of 500 words or less to us at mcgilldaily@hotmail.com

Don't shed a tier for McGill



BY RAOUL GEBERT

Frankly speaking, I have been following the debate about a private college at McGill with a mixture of amusement and alienation. Ralph Klein wants a two-tier health care, Lucien Bouchard wants a two-tier Canada, Preston Manning also wants that, and therefore, it should not be surprising to find our university administration thinking about a two-tier university. Segregation seems to be oddly fashionable as the 21st century is kicking in.

The things that worry me the most, however, are the direct implications for university life. Is my degree going to be a semi-bachelor of Arts, spelling out the fact that my parents should have coughed up that extra twenty-some grand a year to get me the real thing? I can already hear my first job interviewer say something like "Boy, did you ever think you could disguise your mediocre family background by getting a degree at McGill, but they sure fooled you!"

Is the McGill bookstore going to have express cashiers for MCI students? Are regular undergraduates going to be renamed "untouchables?" (Notice, how well this one fits into all student society abbreviations, e.g. SUS, AUS and so forth.) I propose that the administration get a bit more inventive in their quest for extra money. Besides reasonable approaches like pressuring the government for more funding, here are some hints that might get the rusty McGill administration thinking:

How about we offer the Lower Field as parking space to rich tourists visiting Montreal in the summer? How about we rent out the Leacock auditorium for the Bloc's next separatist rally? How about we volunteer the 9th floor of Leacock as a landing-site for alien visitors and wait for inter-galactic riches to fund university education? How about we advertise in our washrooms and sell honorary degrees to rich bank executives? (Oops, I guess we do that already.)

As far fetched most of these thoughts are, some certainly sound better to me than what is being proposed at the moment. I came to this country (like many other international students) namely because it has been able to defy some of that nonsense going on south of its border. What's next, Canada? Reintroduce capital punishment? Scrap the control of firearms? Invade a tropical island? Is this really the path we want to take?

Tales of a Flecktone

Jeff Coffin is not a jazz musician, he's a musician who just happens to really love jazz

By TAL PINCHEVSKY

Within certain musical circles, Jeff Coffin is as accomplished and respected a musician as there is. Living in Nashville, the saxophonist and composer can be seen playing with a myriad of projects including Jeff Coffin and the Jazz Boys, Max Carl and Big Dance, Orkestra Mondo Pingus, and the Sizzle Donkeys among others. His overt talents, as indicated in his lengthy portfolio, have allowed him to explore all sorts of musical realms.

Coffin has been allowed the opportunity to demonstrate his enormous talents playing with some of the most renowned names in music today. To date, artists that Coffin has either played live or recorded with include Dave Matthews Band, Bruce Springsteen, Don Henley, Glenn Frey, Van Morrison, Bruce Hornsby, Branford Marsalis, Phish, Medeski, Martin, and Wood, John Scofield, Sheryl Crow, and many others.

In an interview with *The Daily*, Coffin reveals, in a virtual avalanche of musical opportunity, what his primary musical focus is today. "Right now we're working on the new Flecktones record. We've been doing that since Thanksgiving and we're close to finishing up on it," says Coffin.

Coffin refers to Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, a Grammy award-winning outfit with whom he has been a member for three years. Made up of Coffin, banjo player Bela Fleck, bassist Vic Wooten, and Future Man and his synth axe drummer, a sort of hand-held sampler that provides the group's percussions, the Flecktones are among the most innovative groups in the category-riddled musical fold. Says Coffin, "That has been a pretty primary focus at this point, just working with all the guys, getting everything together, and writing."

with Bela."

But Coffin's enormous talents could not possibly be isolated to just the one group. Regarding the myriad of artists with whom he has played, Coffin simply states, "It puts me into a different experience every time. I think that one of the major things is that, with all of the different styles of music, there come different approaches to music. So I think it allows



me to try a lot of different styles of music, to approach a lot of different styles in different perspectives, and to try to play what I think will fit within a particular situation but still retain who I am."

Coffin continues, "first and foremost, the thing that I found is that they (other artists) were all interested in the music. Everyone was just trying to make music. There was no glam thing going on where they were saying 'look at me I'm a star' and I thought that was great."

Coffin, harping back to his experience with the Flecktones in Montreal for the 1998 Jazzfest, where the band played two free downtown shows under the pseudonym Captain Beefy and the Mad Cows, laments on his love for the

city. "My wife and I totally love Montreal. We toyed around with the idea of moving up there. The city just has such a great vibe. That (Jazzfest) was a lot of fun."

It is with the Flecktones that Coffin has managed to find himself in a more pronounced spotlight in a medium that designates itself more and more as an industry.

The Flecktones have managed to establish a solid worldwide fan base while challenging themselves musically in many different ways. The songs from the Flecktones' albums – the most recent being a greatest hits compilation entitled *Greatest Hits of the 20th Century* – along with the wild improvisation of their live shows has demonstrated the ferocious talent of the group and its members. Also, album titles such as *UFO Tofu* and *Flight of the Cosmic Hippo* have shown the Flecktones to be equally eccentric.

On being in a band wreaking such innovation, Coffin comments, "First and foremost it's fun, it's really a blast. It's really challenging also because you have to be on top of your game when you are in that situation. There's a lot of room for growth and a lot of room for development and trying things that are so open to what everyone else brings to the group. Everyone wants the challenge of trying to play a particular tune that somebody brings in and making it work."

With such an open-ended live format with the Flecktones, it becomes apparent that the dynamics of recording an album and live performance are not mutually exclusive. Coffin affirms this idea saying "I don't think you can really do that (bring live elements into the studio) without having a live record. I mean the live show is just a totally different experience. There's a whole different energy with the live show than with a studio recording, but one of the things that we have been able to achieve with this record is that there is a great live feel to it. I've been in the group now almost three years so there's a great familiarity between all the parts and I think it's just gone to a really beautiful



Jeff Coffin is currently in the studio with the Flecktones

place."

Having played since fifth grade, when he was growing up in Maine, Coffin's performing has truly been a labour of love. Regarding his beginnings as a musician, Coffin says, "I always knew from that point that it made me feel something that I had never felt before. Something just resonated inside of me that I knew that this was what I was supposed to be doing."

After years of playing it appears more and more that Coffin is establishing himself as a prominent saxophonist with a magically elusive style. "It's really just been in the last few years that I feel like I'm starting to find my own voice," says Coffin. "In the last four years or so, I have found a place that seems really comfortable for me."

It certainly appears that things are

coming together for Jeff Coffin. More than anything, Coffin says, "I just want to keep doing what I'm doing and keep getting better at it. Just keep pushing my own envelope." With an array of upcoming projects including the new Flecktones album, Coffin should find himself musically immersed as he further introduces himself to the world as among music's genuine and talented creators.

Jeff Coffin's new cd, *Commonality*, is now out on *Compas* records and is available at www.jeffcoffin.com and other music outlets. Bela Fleck and the Flecktones' new album should be available in the coming months and their next tour begins February 14th in Madison, Wisconsin.



Bela Fleck and the Flecktones onstage

Fries + Gravy + Cheese = Heaven

Searching for the best poutine in Montreal

BY JUDAH STRAWCZYNSKI

SUPER FRITE

There is a phobia at McGill that must be reversed. After class, after the bar, after work, it's always the same:

"Do you want to go grab a falafel?"

Or worse: "How about dollar pizza?"

Over time, these cravings have been engrained in the psyche of the average student. They are partly caused by peer pressure ("Everyone else is eating this junk."), but mostly come from sheer ignorance of the other food groups out there. Rarely will you find a student looking for a different fast-food staple. It is time to break free of these barriers.

It is time to open up,

to shed our

preju-

dices. It

may

look like

a heart-

attack for take-out, but one

should never judge by the

exterior. If you need to, close

your eyes, but open up your

mouth — it's time to try

poutine!

Before proceeding, there are a few things that one should know about poutine. This French Canadian classic is a rich trio of French fries, gravy and cheese. Each factor is essential in a good poutine, but the gravy risks ruining both the cheese and the fries if it's got a bad taste (or after-taste) to it. The fries should be able to hold their own — if you think you wouldn't be eating the fries plain, then they aren't good enough for the poutine. This delicacy is defined by chunks of cheese curds, not grated cheese. For the inexperienced poutine lover, grated cheese may be acceptable, but just wait for the price of cheese to go up, and see what's being grated into your fries then. Cheese curds are a sign of quality — they are more expensive than grated cheese, and are a part of the poutine tradition. The dish should be served up hot, with nicely spread layers of cheese curds and gravy.

Ski hills, hockey rinks, and fry-trucks are the unsung heroes of the poutine success story. Unfortunately, the McGill rink doesn't sell food, fry trucks are nowhere to be found in greater Montreal, and ski hills are a little out of the way for the average student on study break. So I have concentrated my study on poutine available in the downtown core.

One last note — when ordering this dish, it must be properly pronounced. Don't get nasal. The word must flow out of the mouth, and not be cut off short. It's "pooh-teen", not "pue-tan". Follow this rule, or see the surprise of your cashier as you order a prostitute and cola for take-out.

Not so super. This little dive's location, the food court of Place Montreal Trust, doesn't exactly add to the gastronomical experience. The small poutine is decidedly... well... small. The gravy, and cheese have been layered into the fries, and not simply stuffed on top; such artistry for \$3.29. The cheese at Super Frite is good, and melts well into the melange. The fries lose their crispness due to the

g r a v y,

b u t

cheese curds. They're thrown into the frill ice cold. I guess the caf staff thought that the fries and gravy would heat up the cheese. It just doesn't work that way. The gravy at McGill is superb, but the jaw-breaking cheese ruins everything! This example of poutine has led to students rushing out for dollar pizzas and on falafel frenzies. But the McGill experience should

ance, even the most seasoned poutine veteran will find this one hard to swallow. The gravy is a thick sort of affair. The cheese curds are quite good, but the gravy has harmed this poor baby beyond hope.

WHAT ABOUT ALL OF THE OTHER POUTINE HOTBEDS?

Sure, this is a general overview of Montreal poutine, and only a few places have been reviewed. If you think you've found a poutine gem, please let us know. "But

McCONNELL ENGINEERING CAFETERIA

I placed my order before I could see the ingredients. Bad news. I should have known that there was a reason behind the low prices. \$2.00 for a small, \$2.75 for the poutine short-order special! Not bad. The fries are crispy goodness, and not too salty. The gravy is tangy, in that salty, beef-brothy kind of way, and if you avert your eyes from the areas of solidified fat, it even tastes pretty good. But, alas, alack, McConnell Engineering caf uses regular cheese strands. That can only mean one thing: disqualification.

Oh well... Despite my orthodox views on the manner, I ate this dish. I was hungry.

The cheese and gravy were just thrown carelessly on top of my poutine. It was left to me to mix the

three ingredients into a melange. It was around this time that I noticed that the stringy poutine pieces were sticking to the fries, and stretching in all sorts of directions. As I raised a forkful of this fanciful treat, I had to make sure to avoid hitting the person sitting opposite me with a strand of the ever-elongating cheese. Admittedly, the cheese strings are pretty fun to play with... What am I saying? They're still disqualified. So there.

So whether you're a beginner or the experienced gourmet poutine fanatic, there is hardly a place with French fries that doesn't offer a little gravy and cheese as well... There's plenty of heart-stopping fun at every street corner, so go out there and remember, il faut vivre pour manger! Bon appetit!

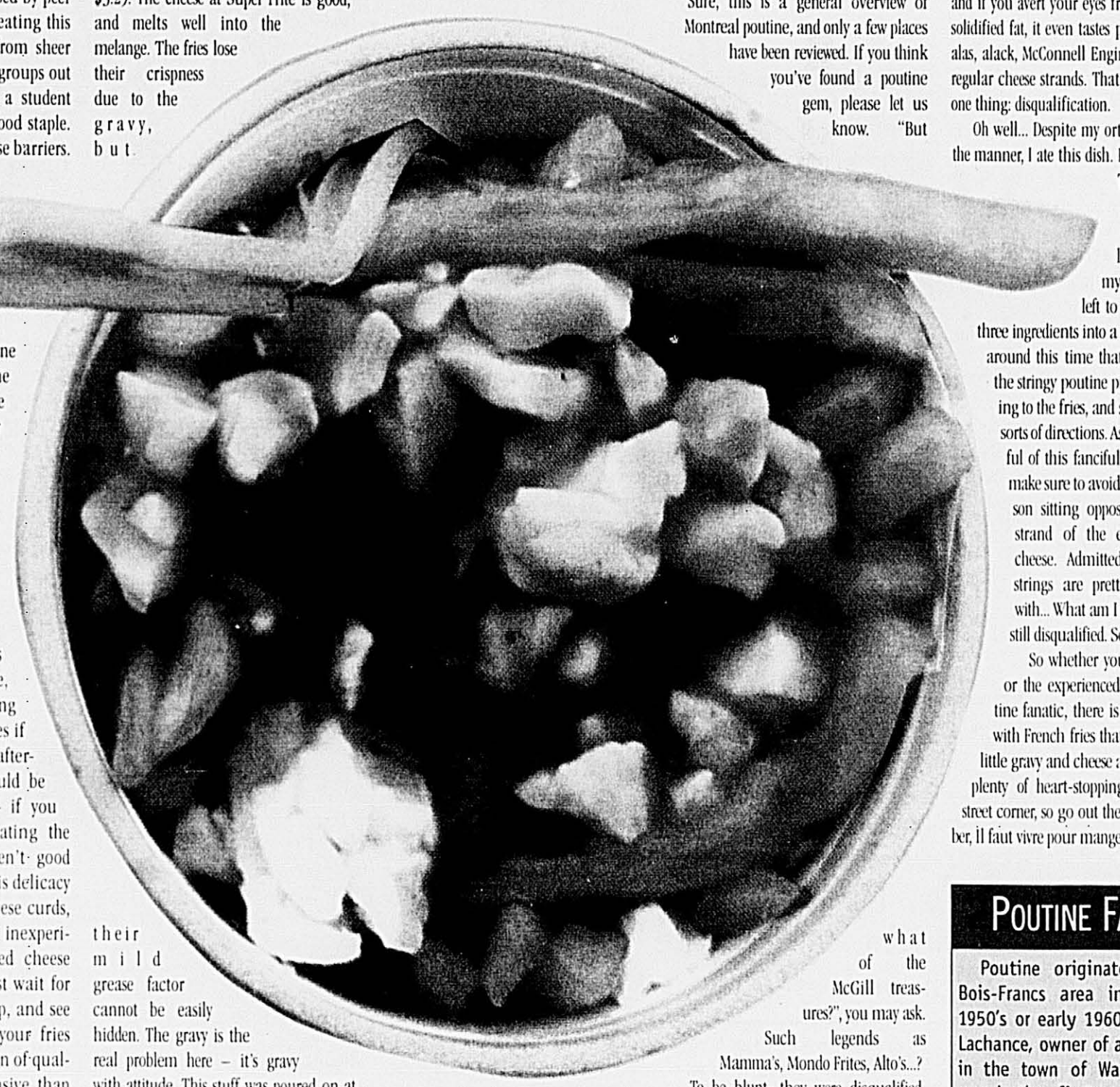
POUTINE FACTS

Poutine originated in the Bois-Francs area in the late 1950's or early 1960's. Fernand Lachance, owner of a restaurant in the town of Warwick, prepared the first poutine for restaurant goer Jean-Guy Laine. This original poutine was a mixture of french fries and cheese curds. Gravy was yet to come.

After receiving more requests for the unnamed dish, Lachance added it to the menu of his restaurant Le Lutin Qui Rit.

The word poutine, before it designated the food, was frequently used to refer to a strange mixture. "Ça fait toute une poutine!" was the phrase which named the food we know today.

Poutine has since taken on many forms, such as Italian poutine and galvaude. Galvaude is poutine which includes chicken, peas and coleslaw.



their mild grease factor cannot be easily hidden. The gravy is the real problem here — it's gravy with attitude. This stuff was poured on at 3000 degrees, and my mouth burned every time I tried to take a bite. The consistency and taste of this poutine is right, but the temperature nearly makes this baby too hot to handle. I suppose one could wait for things to cool down a bit, but the idea of waiting as the fries grow soggy just is not appealing.

McGILL SHATNER CAFETERIA

A source who refuses to be identified has told me that the key to making the Shatner cafeteria poutine edible is to microwave it. Nuked poutine. If that makes it better, then you know that this is one order to steer clear of. Even the convenience of the Shatner building doesn't make this worth buying. \$2.50 buys you your ticket to the dentist. Hidden in the mediocre fries and swimming in a sea of gravy, you'll find the

not be the be-all/end-all of our poutine experiments.

LA BELLE PROVINCE

Welcome to La Belle Province. This Quebec chain is known for its artery clogging goodness. Locations on Saint-Laurant and on Peel just behind HMV make this experience easily accessible. I order a poutine for \$3.49, and watch in approval as gravy and cheese curds are layered into my fries. La Belle Province is the closest thing to fry-truck heaven that you will find in these parts, and they make sure to include this goodness in their poutine. But La Belle Province kills the moment. They use a gravy that... brace yourself, dear reader, is... ORANGE! How did that ever pass quality control? Eeeeeew. Although I recommend that one not judge a poutine by its appear-

what of the McGill treasures?", you may ask.

Such legends as Mamma's, Mondo Frites, Alto's...?

To be blunt — they were disqualified. Many of these establishments violate the cheese curd principle, and recklessly use grated cheese instead. Some of them decided that the trinity of cheese curds, fries and gravy is not enough, and took it upon themselves to alleviate this problem. Mondo Frites offers a Garden Poutine that features vegetables. Several establishments have veered into Italian poutine. Others still choose to mix cultures by adding smoked meat into the fray. You can even get pre-made frozen poutine at the supermarket. Such blasphemy! I was brought up in a conservative environment that stressed the unity of cheese curds, gravy, and fries. To modify it, add to it, or to take away from it, ("Can fries and gravy be considered poutine?") is a cardinal sin. The very least that can be done to such is disqualify such establishments from this survey.

Still...

Grease Gestapo

They've got your cigarettes, now they want your hamburger

BY JODI LATHAM

Here we are, taking our first steps into the new millennium and, if statistics are anything to go by, we are being slowed down by a lot of extra baggage. New Year's resolutions, unsuccessful diets, and dusty exercise machines litter our past and it seems that, despite the apparent preoccupation this society has with being slim, the reality is that most people are battling just to stay at a healthy weight.

According to statistics quoted by the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), over 50 percent of Americans are overweight or obese, an increase of 25 percent over the last 3 decades. Slimming down and staying at a healthy weight is no longer a matter of fitting trends, it is a matter of life and death.

With obesity reaching epidemic proportions and rating as the second leading cause of preventable death in the United States, some people think the time has come to take some drastic steps to curb this heart-stopping trend. "We need to implement steps to slow the progression of this national epidemic," said George L. Blackburn, president of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (NAASO).

Fat Tax

This is where the Fat Tax comes in. This tax and others like it are among the more radical routes being pursued by those hoping to combat the obesity epidemic. If the American Obesity Association (AOA) is successful in their current crusade, there will be an increased tax on fatty foods, similar to that placed on tobacco.

The ideology behind the proposal is also similar. By increasing the price of fatty foods, it is hoped that people will opt for the cheaper, healthier alternative. The revenue generated would go towards a campaign aimed at getting people out of McDonald's and onto the treadmill.

Not everyone, however, has warmed to the idea. A major sticking point is the fact that, unlike smoking, overeating does not affect those around you, unless of course you drop dead. One is forced to ask whether this is an infringement of civil rights. If I want to eat a reasonably priced bag of

chips instead of the comparatively overpriced salad, shouldn't I be allowed to?

Steve Dabash, national director of the Libertarian Party certainly thinks so. "Hide the ham, guard the gravy, and hold on to your hamburger: the calorie cops are coming after us," he announced in a recent press release. "If we don't stop them, the grease Gestapo will do to fatty foods what they've already done to cigarettes."

Like tobacco, there are numerous health-related problems linked to obesity, many of which are fatal. "Obesity dramatically increases health risks, including type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and coronary heart disease," said Samuel Klein, M.D., chairman of the Public Policy

"If we don't stop them, the grease Gestapo will do to fatty foods what they've already done to cigarettes."

Committee at NAASO. Obesity has also been linked by researchers to cancer.

Yet one of the major problems faced by those hoping to lure people away from the hamburgers and fries is that most people don't think of the consequences of overeating in terms of health. There is such an enormous emphasis on how we look, that many people overlook the very real threat that being overweight poses to their lives. "For the most part, patients recognise from their discomfort and appearance that they are overweight, but they usually aren't worried about the health consequences," commented Neil Brooks, MD, a family physician in Vernon, Connecticut. "They are in denial about the seriousness of the problem."

"More than a quarter of American children are overweight or obese."

A recent survey carried out by Shape Up America discovered that seven out of ten people found to be overweight did not believe that it was a health concern. "It's very disappointing and scary, because statistics show a rising prevalence of obesity," said Barbara J. Moore, PhD, president of Shape Up America. "If people don't see obesity as a health issue, I don't see how we're going to turn this around."

Apart from the money spent on Get Fit

campaigns, obesity is also placing a huge burden on taxpayers. The American Obesity Association calls obesity a "ticking time bomb in the health care system." While this statement sounds melodramatic, it does look like tax payers could be footing an increasingly hefty (pardon the pun) medical bill, as result of the huge numbers of people falling victim to health problems associated with overeating. At present it is costing our neighbours to the south \$100 billion per annum.

"Without concerted initiatives to prevent and treat overweight adults, the health care system will increasingly be overwhelmed with individuals who require treatment for obesity-related health conditions," said JAMA.

It isn't only adults joining the legions of overweight and unhealthy people, there are numerous children as well. According to government data, approximately a quarter of youngsters are currently overweight or obese in the United States. A lot of people think something has to be done to get all those kids away from their video games, out of the corner shop, and into the park. Let's face it, it's a pretty sad predicament when a child can't run the length of the playground or climb the monkey bars. If a chocolate bar cost just a bit more, maybe they could.

Fat Kids

"More than a quarter of American children are overweight or obese and adult diseases like type-2 diabetes already affect many adolescents," commented Klein. "As obese children get older, the cost of their health care will increase, but, more importantly, they will pay a terrible price in a reduced quality of life."

Since the vast majority of children rely on their parents for food (or at least for the cash to buy it), it seems that mom and dad just aren't doing very well on the health food front. Bad eating habits can last a life time and are difficult to toss after 20 years, so maybe measures need to be taken in order to stop the next generation from growing up overweight and prone to numerous illnesses.

Fat Brits

Recently, British researchers have



Watch out - They're deceptively cute

also proposed high taxes on people who eat rich foods. In a paper published in last Friday's British Medical Journal, Prof. Tom Marshall, a professor in the department of public health and epidemiology at the University of Birmingham, says that such a tax could prevent hundreds of premature deaths and cut the incidence of heart disease by about 10 per cent. This tax would extend to foods such as whole milk, butter, cheese, biscuits, buns, cakes, pastries, puddings, and ice cream, which are the main sources of saturated fat in the British diet.

The idea was encouraged by John Schaafsma from the University of Victoria. Schaafsma applauded the idea saying that it was a good way to collect health-care money from people who are "creating health-care costs."

In the same issue of the British Medical Journal, Eileen Kennedy of the Office of Research, Education, and Economics of the US Department of Agriculture calls the proposal an "intriguing approach to a complicated public health problem." She also points out that cholesterol levels are determined by genetics as well as by diet, so changes in health might not be so dramatic.

So will a "fat tax" work? Undoubtedly

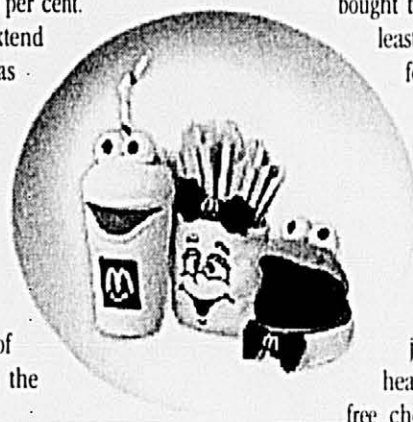
it is going to have an effect on underfed, poor university students whose only sources of nutrients are pizza and other tasty take away titbits. But what about those hard core junk food fanatics with the cash to spare? Perhaps not. Research conducted by the University of Minnesota, however, did find that when the price of health foods was cut in half, students bought twice as much. So at least there would be hope for the kiddies.

Just Plain Fat

Yet as the Libertarian Party points out, this isn't just a matter of health, it is a matter of free choice and individual rights. It is one thing to raise public knowledge about eating properly and the risks of being overweight, but it is a whole other thing to makes choices for us.

It certainly won't take long for all the arguments we heard against raising the tax on tobacco products to re-surface. In this case, those fighting the proposal have an advantage. Unlike tobacco, while eating badly may have a negative effect on your own health, it isn't putting others at risk.

No one can doubt the need to raise public awareness about the consequences of being overweight, but have we really reached a point where we can't even make our own choices about what to eat?





Happiness...Is Touring

Our Lady Peace are perennial road warriors

BY GABE FLORES

Speaking from a Kansas City hotel room, bassist Duncan Coutts' explanation of a typical day best summed up the past few months for Our Lady Peace.

"We try to explore the city we're in, do a few interviews, do the show, and get back on the bus to do the next gig."

Since September, OLP has toured throughout the United States and Europe and are now in the middle of a Canadian tour, aptly named The World's A Blister. They show no signs of tiring.

Released in 1999, *Happiness...Is not a fish that you can catch* is the third album from the Toronto quintet. Following on the heels of *Clumsy*, their near-platinum-selling album that solidified their position in the industry, Coutts was quick to say that the band is "still extremely excited about the new record."

But keeping things "fresh" after hundreds of shows can become a problem. Squabbles on long bus rides between gigs, on-stage gaffes, and the sense being travelling nomads are often the beginnings of a band's downfall. Not so with Our Lady Peace. For Coutts, "while the 22 other hours of the day can become a drag, whenever I'm onstage, it's never a problem."

Unlike some acts, including Portishead – who a few years back played the exact same show on a two-night stand at the Metropolis – Our Lady Peace has been trying different interpretations of songs, concentrating on a more hypnotic, trippy sound.

"It gets a dialogue of musicality happening between [them] where if you don't mix things up, it could become routine," says Coutts.

Drawing from a repertoire that includes the occasional cover song, being on the road doesn't mean the band doesn't evolve musically. According to Coutts, Raine's been writing like a madman in the backlounge and the addition of Jamie Edwards has allowed the other members more freedom in exploring the infinite avenues of stage performance.



Bassist Duncan Coutts thinks it's important for OLP to forge relationships with its fans.

Edwards has been touring with the band since last September and his handling of the keyboards, zither, and sampler has taken the load off the rest of the band, especially considering the size of the arena venues and the need to concentrate on their instruments.

The addition of Edwards, coupled with OLP's exposure on this expansive tour, appears to be paying off. They're building up a fan base by playing shows around

North America and the UK and in festivals, including last year's much-maligned Woodstock and Summersault.

But to Coutts, there's more to the formula than just touring. "If you're going to walk into an arena, the challenge is to connect with your fans, and it's much easier to do that in a bar."

Following the conclusion of the Canadian leg of the tour, OLP will do the Junos in March before flying back to the UK and continental Europe in April with the hopes of landing a spot on some of the huge European music festivals where "the music's so eclectic and diverse."

It's also an opportunity for the band to "have a dialogue with our fans. We want to give our fans a little insight into our personalities. If you don't explore all the opportunities and ways to be creative, then you're wasting your time."

Coutts cites the Pearl Jam of old when he talked about keeping the music honest and letting the fans get a glimpse of more than just the music. "I saw Pearl Jam open for Neil Young just before they released their second album. They had honesty to their music. When I see other bands, I think I can feed off their conviction."

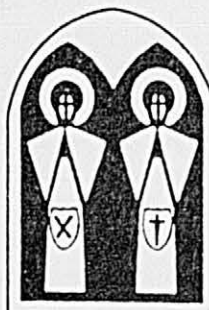
Doesn't quite sound like your typical rock n' roll band, does it? Coutts continues, "We're not one of those bands that gets a record contract, sells some records, and then it's all about booze and drugs and wasting your life away."

Well, they've got the contract, they've sold plenty of records, and the rest you'll have to see for yourself.

Our Lady Peace plays Wednesday, February 2 at the Molson Amphitheatre with opening act The Stereophonics. For tickets call 790-1245.

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Meetings are Fridays @ 3:30 pm in The Daily office

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FRIDAY, MARCH 3rd, 2000

WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET YOUR FILL OF THE FLECKTONES,
PHISH, AND BURT BACHARACH?

THE MCGILL DAILY

Branding Could Get Worse

The Daily continues its interview with activist journalist Naomi Klein

BY ZACH DUBINSKY

Naomi Klein was born to American peace activists who came to Canada to dodge the Vietnam War draft. She went to St. George's High School in Montreal and then to the University of Toronto, where she was an editor at The Varsity. She has also held an internship at The Globe and Mail, an editorial position at This Magazine, and a column in The Toronto Star. In March she will rejoin The Globe as a columnist.

In the second part of an interview with The Daily, Klein talked about her new book, *No Logo: Taking Aim at the Brand Bullies*, as well as anti-corporate activism and the rise of branding.

The bacterial spread of corporatization hasn't gone unnoticed, Klein says. Slowly, pockets of resistance are forming. Klein hopes that her book will prove to a disbelieving mainstream society that this is the case.

"The book is an attempt to explain why we're seeing a rise in anti-corporate activism, to prove to people that it in fact exists," she says. "Something like Seattle happens and the American media are taken entirely by surprise... The provincialism of Americans is astonishing. If it doesn't happen in their backyard, it doesn't exist! So finally it exploded in their backyard, and now they understand." Just in case, *No Logo* will ensure they get it.

Asked about the irony of the title of her book, Klein responds enthusiastically. "That's what's so right about it!" But she immediately sobered and offers a serious and clearly thought-out defence of her choice of publisher (Random House) and design ("slick," according to the review in The Globe and Mail).

"To do a book like this, it took four years. The book is not a manifesto, I didn't write it off the top of my head. It involved a huge amount of firsthand research, and I'm not an academic, and I don't work for a newspaper. I could've gone with a different kind of publisher but I couldn't have written this book."

Klein is firm that she didn't let any of these choices compromise her journalism.

"I made a decision early on that the integrity of the book was going to be in the ideas and I was going to go far out of my way to ensure that the integrity was there, that I write about Random House, that I write about bookstore chains. Yeah, it's

going to be sold at Chapters, but the onus was on me to prove that I hadn't been compromised by that process."

She also defends her choices on wider philosophical grounds. Klein feels that the intellectual left has often been marred by a holier-than-thou puritanism that made it feel "compromised by design." She points to her work at *This* magazine as an example of how the left can be smart and slick at the same time.

"When I came, the magazine was the typical 'read it because it's good for you' and 'we're not going to try to seduce you with any fancy pictures or anything like that.' I think it's a real problem on the left... I don't believe that it is the act of marketing that is at issue, I think what I'm talking about is a system, and the effects of the system on our culture and on our work lives."

OPTIMISTIC. SORT OF.

Despite the pernicious ubiquity of branding, Naomi Klein remains cautiously optimistic. She points out that ours isn't the only era to witness commercial encroachment into art, music, journalism, and culture.

"In the early days of television, you would have sponsors developing shows. And in film all the studios were making short films featuring their star actors and

regulating what ads claimed: the truth-in-advertising laws and lobbying for more accurate labelling. So the studios stopped making sponsored films because they felt there was too much of a backlash, so it actually does show that...these trends already have been reversed."

But Klein prefers not to rely on such a reversal as the solution to globalization's ills. Rather, she anticipates a viable alternative to the current globalization model.

"Just rolling things back for the sake of rolling things back never works. In a funny way I think it's going to get worse before it gets better. We're seeing a new vision of globalization expressed, and new institutions are going to come out of that vision and it's only at that point that I think there's going to be a real impact on the imperialist agenda of branding."

"I don't think things will be rolled back because we don't like them. They'll be rolled back because they won't fit into an alternative, forward-looking vision."

That vision, according to Klein, will only come when concerned citizens go beyond boycotts and consumer-based solutions to embrace the need for wider changes to economic and political structures. This has already begun.

"I believe that this movement is a political movement responding to corporations as political entities that are in many ways more powerful than government, and it's not really so much about whether we're wearing their products or eating their food. It's about how we try to regulate them."

"We have already as a democracy proved that we can regulate corporations. This idea that it all has to be boiled down to the individual and what they wear and what they buy is actually a really depoliticizing impulse to repulse shallow politics. It's not that I think lifestyle questions aren't important - I think we should all try to live our lives as ethically as we can - but I think that the obsession with consumer-based solutions can be the downfall of all this energy."

Why were the politics of so many early anti-corporate activists "shallow"? Klein explains:

"There seems to be a difficulty in moving beyond just a basic common-denominator anticorporate sentiment. The organizing seems to happen before the ideology

actresses selling, but with little story lines of 10 minutes right before the feature."

Similarly, nor is ours the only era to witness a backlash against commercialization.

"During the depression there was a wave of anti-corporate activism, in part regulating the advertising industry and



Pepsi bottle (foreground) and Naomi Klein

Pierre-Alain Perleford

BRANDS AND YOU

BRAND BULLIES

Brand Bullies are the cream of the branding crop. They spend massive amounts of money - if not the majority of their budgets - on advertising, marketing, and branding. They try to completely transcend the world of things and instead aim to sell ideas, concepts, and feelings. Brand bullies can be people too: Michael Jordan and Martha Stewart.

Nike: The shoe manufacturer spent a whopping \$500-million on ads in 1997 - 10 times more than in 1987, and three times the budget of rival Reebok. Nike CEO Phil Knight said the company isn't a manufacturer at all; instead, Nike aims to "enhance people's lives through sports and fitness."

Tommy Hilfiger: The clothing manufacturer, according to Naomi Klein, "is less in the business of manufacturing clothes than he is in the business of signing his name. The company is run entirely through licensing agreements, with Hilfiger commissioning all its products from a group of other companies."

MTV: Klein says that "MTV is the model for fully branded media integration....From the beginning, MTV has not been just a marketing machine for the products it advertises around the clock; it has also been a 24-hour advertisement for MTV itself."

BRAND BULLIES IN TRAINING

The up-and-comers in the brand wars aren't necessarily your typical clothing, beverage, and entertainment companies. Heavy machinery, hi-technology, and even sand can all be branded successfully, say advertising pundits.

Intel: "Intel Corp., which makes computer parts no one sees and few understand, transformed its processors into a fetish brand with TV ads featuring line workers in funky metallic space suits dancing to 'Shake Your Groove Thing,'" writes Klein. "The Intel mascots proved so popular that the company has sold hundreds of thousands of bean-filled dolls modeled on the shimmery dancing technicians."

ALSO BRANDS

These companies haven't caught on to the branding revolution just yet. Get on the brandwagon folks!

Polaroid: According to the chairman of the camera manufacturer's ad agency, "Polaroid's problem was that they kept thinking of themselves as a camera. But the '[brand] vision' process taught us something: Polaroid is not a camera - it's a social lubricant."

Ford, General Motors: America's automotive heavyweights are trying, but you can hawk a 2-ton hunk of steel only so much.

is worked out."

Things are improving however. Klein sees the emergence of a common ground as a key step in "repairing some very deep rifts between groups that were traditionally pitted against each other." And she cites North America's two major recent protests as evidence of a demand for political solutions to corporatization.

"I think the anti-APEC protests in 1997 and the WTO protests last month really show that a lot of young people are taking the next step - they're seeking out the regulatory bodies, they're finding where the agenda is being set, and they're taking the big leap from Nike to the WTO."

For Klein, the future will see her staying the activist path she's trodden until now. Daughter-in-law of former Ontario NDP

leader Stephen Lewis and bleeding heart Toronto Star columnist Michelle Landsberg, she stands little chance of crossing the floor.

Now that she's written a primer on the why of anti-corporate activism, Klein wants to get more involved in the what.

"What I'm really interested in now is just following the issues in a more in-depth way. I think we are on the verge of several attempts, some of which are quite scary, to come up with the rules and regulations of the global economy to address some of these concerns. As an activist journalist, I want to see where all this is happening, go to the conferences and cover it, and get beyond the trend stuff and get to the issues."

If her penetrating analysis of the "trend stuff" is any indication, Klein's readers will continue to be informed and enlightened.

CD REVIEWS

TOMMY LEE
METHODS OF MAYHEM
(UNIVERSAL)

Aging hard rock drummer Tommy Lee is one bad mofo and he wants everybody to know it. Recently released from jail, and officially severed from Mötley Crüe, Tommy has joined forces with Pint Sized rapper TiLo, to release *Methods of Mayhem*, his first ever solo effort. Apparently, Tommy felt constrained creatively as a drummer and that's why he has adopted the roles of singer, producer, DJ, guitarist, keyboardist, and rapper on the new album. Yes that's right, I said rapper. If you want to hear Tommy Lee rymmin' about how he's "Tired of the Boys in Blue running up on his crew" while he is "Smoking weed and Drinking Brew" look no further.

From the sound of it, jail has served to harden Tommy. And *Methods of Mayhem* is, in essence, a release of a tremendous amount of aggressive energy. Tommy and TiLo have assembled an amazing list of collaborators with which to espouse their "Fuck the Police" philosophy. Snoop Doggy Dogg, Lil' Kim, Mix Master Mike, George Clinton, The Crystal Method, Limp Bizkit's Fred Durst, Kid Rock, and Wu-Tang's U-God all add their input to the record.

Methods of Mayhem is hard to get a handle on. It is primarily a hard rock record which, at times, runs the gauntlet from hip-hop to alternative rock to death metal to funk to psychedelic jungle. The best thing about the record is this variety of styles and genres; each track is usually widely different stylistically from the one preceding it. The same holds for the lyrics with the exception of Tommy's newfound rapping talent. I believe Snoop Dogg when he's talking about "Getting Money and Fucking Ho's," but when Tommy starts cutting up his parole officer and the people in his drug rehabilitation group, I just want to slap him. He's put us though too much to be running off at mouth like this. The track "Proposition Fuck You" is just the icing on the cake.

Despite this disparity, I'm amazed at myself to give this record a thumbs-up rating. Stylistically, it plays like a compilation and is always refreshing and energetic. As much as I want to trash it, *Methods of Mayhem* is above average and, at times, it's damn good. Who knows?

-Will Sacks

D'ANGELO
VOODOO
(VIRGIN)

Pressure can be an unpredictable force. In the music industry, there are those that crumble under pressure, those that confidently ignore it, and those that thrive under it. In the five years since the release of his first album, *Brown Sugar*, there have been rumours of drug abuse, lessons from the master (playing with the Artist formerly known as Prince), divorce, a child, an uneasiness with the state of black music, and love. The question amongst soul and R'n'B fans was how these pressures would affect D'Angelo.

Once *Brown Sugar* hit the streets, people soon realized that the quiet preacher's son from Richmond, Virginia was a virtu-

oso. As a mere teenager, D'Angelo had composed, written, produced and arranged most of *Brown Sugar*, in addition to playing almost all the instruments heard on the album. Immediately D'Angelo was linked to the greats; Marvin Gaye, Al Green, and, more appropriately, Stevie Wonder.

Unfortunately, D'Angelo's long hiatus has produced extra high expectations for *Voodoo*. Add that to the sophomore jinx factor that has plagued black music and the odds of *Voodoo* actually pleasing fans are about the same as hearing a collaboration between Jewel and Eminem.

These factors, however, evidently had no negative effects on D'Angelo. Instead, it seems that he has done something very right during his time off. D'Angelo has created something that will make anyone who lives for music cry. *Voodoo* shines the way *Songs In The Key of Life* does; the artistic execution is perfect. Even under microscopic examination, there is essentially nothing lacking in *Voodoo*. The musicianship is nothing less than stellar. The entire album was recorded with no overdubs so what you hear is exactly what was going on in the studio while recording. The guestlist for *Voodoo* isn't overcrowded and is limited to other artists that love the music as much as D'Angelo does. The Roots' drummer Questlove, bassist/guitarist Charlie Hunter (who plays the bass and the guitar at the same time

on "The Root," "Spanish Joint," and "Greatdaydamornin'"), and Raphael Saadiq all make their contributions yet never outshine or sound foreign in D'Angelo's dirty south style. If there is one blemish on *Voodoo*, it may be in the cameos Red and Meth make in "Left and Right." Although both are gifted lyricists, their misogynistic rhymes cut deep into *Voodoo*'s spiritual aura.

Voodoo has a very familiar feel to it (note the Kool and the Gang melody on "Send It On"), yet it's innovative (just check the backwards Rhodes on "Playa, Playa"). The contrasts are typical D'Angelo: raw lyrics delivered with that butter-smooth falsetto voice. Although D'Angelo's influences can be heard (his tribute to the Artist, the appropriately titled "Untitled" has the same setup as "Pink Cashmere"), his music is undeniably his own. Simply put, this album is the new precedent on what soul music, in fact music in general can and should be: art.

-Joe Lacuna

A LO CUBANO
ORISHAS
(VIRGIN)

I hardly ever like a disc so much on the first listen. The first hip-hop disc out of Havana to reach us, Orishas' debut disc *a lo cubano*, is more intercontinental than french toast. Mixing

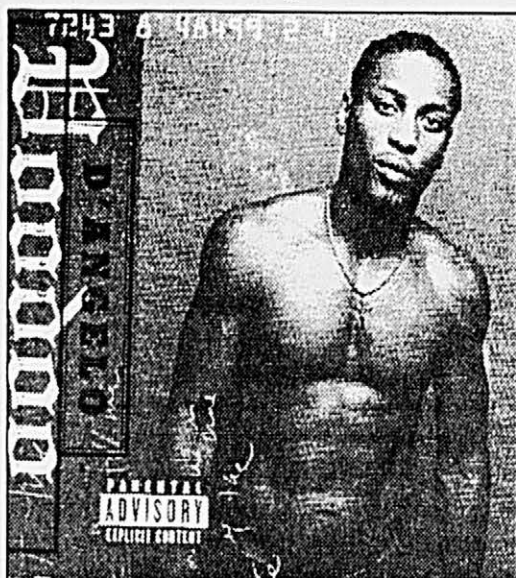
Cuban and African styles with the eloquence of French hip hop, Orishas sounds like the love child of the Buena Vista Social Club and MC Solaar. Live percussion, from congas to cowbells, break up hip hop's standard 4/4 accents with a variety of Latin rhythms. Add to this live guitar, horns, piano, and violin to vaporize any fears of monotonous canned beats or samples. The programmed drums are solid and groove rippin' scratches complete the album's 15 impeccably tight tracks.

A variety of themes are carried by the music, including the tensions that exist between Cuba and the West, the difficulties of urban life, the pursuit of rum, women, and money, and a strong sense of Cuban identity and pride. Harsh, honest, and poetic lyrics flow throughout a lo cubano. They surface particularly in "537 C.U.B.A." which lays romantic images over the Buena Vista Social Club's hit "Chan, Chan." "Vengo de donde...el guajiro hace a la tierra son-iar" (I come from a place where... the sweat falling from the plantation worker, makes the land dream) sings one of Orishas four members. The power of the rhyme and

rhythm of the vocals and of the interplay between spoken and sung sections is easily felt, even if your Spanish isn't good enough to follow along.

Although it keeps most of us in the dark, the fact that this album is almost entirely in Spanish is one of its many good qualities. This anti-ABBA stance, of refusing to change languages simply to cash in on the North American market, is heartening. Coupled with the multi-platinum sales of the Buena Vista Social Club and the increasing interest in world music, this album may be another step into a more all-inclusive popular culture. Politics aside, this album's contagious contents will get you out of bed, and give new meaning to the repeat button on your CD player.

-Alex Aylett and Olivia Torres



THE BEACH

LEONARDO DICAPRIO

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Dutoit's Night Off

A disappointing night at the MSO

BY DAVID PODGORSKI

Although they lacked their regular conductor, The Montreal Symphony Orchestra nevertheless had a promising repertoire ready for last week's concert in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier. Dvorák's *Symphony No. 7* and Prokofiev's *Second Piano Concerto* were the highlights of the evening, and an overture by Canadian composer Andrew MacDonald rounded out the program, but regrettably, the concert failed to deliver the goods.

The concert began with MacDonald's *Eros*, a piece commissioned in 1995 for the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Initially tender, with slow, rich harmonies, it evoked a gentle interpretation of love. Harp and percussion were also employed to great effect and were soon answered by passionate squeals from the strings. Adding to the climax, the work was given even more intensity by loud whistles and a sample from Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* in what seemed a jarring contrast, but this shock finally subsided back into heart-rending sounds before gradually fading away.

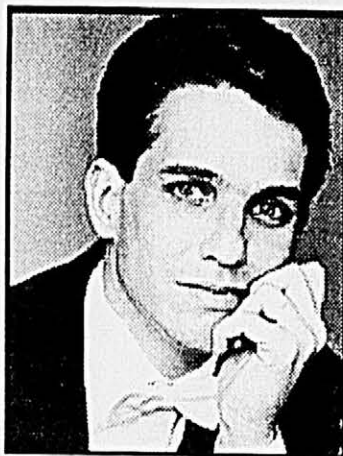
Prokofiev was quite a different matter, however. Pianist Horacio Gutiérrez favoured this highly emotional work with a more conservative and mellow interpretation. Opening with a rich and sonorous exposition, the piece led quickly into a solo cadenza full of huge arpeggios that emphasized the soloist's blistering technique.

The pyrotechnics continued in the second movement, as Gutiérrez played a constant run of sixteenth notes with flawless execution, but was impeded by an orchestra which followed his lead rather meekly. Subsequent movements featured a darker sound, making an already reserved interpretation sound even more subdued. This allowed Gutiérrez to emphasize the mysterious chords in the fourth movement, which finished at last

with several exclamations from the piano and orchestra and a final display of virtuosity.

There were unfortunately some audible flaws in this performance. The orchestra and the piano were frequently not playing together, and any merits derived from the slower tempi were simply not worth the sacrifice made. In short, the piece had all the fire and energy sucked out of it.

Dvorák's *Symphony No. 7* suffered the same ill-treatment. A dark and brooding work, it is a favourite of many composers,



MSO guest conductor Keith Lockhart

who hail it as his best. Guest conductor Keith Lockhart opted to gloss over the more sinister aspects of the symphony with a rather cheerful interpretation that was top-heavy with strings, yet failed to obscure the composer's anguished intentions. A weighty sound from the cellos

would be broken by a bright response from the horns, for example, or intensity would build only to finish in a light-hearted flute melody. The result was a weak performance that left no lasting impression; torn between two contrasting emotions, one could not be sure of the authenticity of either one.

It was this lacklustre sense of interpretation which proved to be the concert's undoing. Although both Dvorák and Prokofiev can sound unsettling, the thrill of listening to these composers comes from the fact that they wrote powerful music, not the fact that they can be made to sound like Mozart. As Robertson Davies once remarked, "Music is like wine, the less people know about it, the sweeter they like it," and it would seem that a concert such as this proves that even the best of orchestras can succumb to the cultural affliction that Davies described. One only hopes that the next one is of a superior vintage.

The February line-up at the MSO includes Mahler's *First Symphony* and a night of Strauss. For information call 842-3402

PLAY REVIEW

Blunder Towards Oblivion, Ever the Optometrist

BY RYAN ALLEN

Lawrence and Holloman, the 1998 drama by Vancouver playwright Morris Panych, one-time Governor General's Award winner, is cleverly written and well-acted. Replete with malapropisms and mispronunciations, this witty black comedy is the story of a perverse and yet oddly tender friendship.

Lawrence gives new meaning to "denial" when his luck takes a turn. Not only is the erstwhile salesman-of-the-month "with a future" fired from his job - correction - has his position put "under review";

for starters he is disappointed in love, gets sulphuric acid in the eyes, gets committed to a psychiatric hospital, and has a leg rot off from gangrene. Yet he remains, in his own words, "an optometrist."

The message of this story seems to be that while life may be painful and sad, at least those looking in can have a good chuckle at your expense.

Lawrence and Holloman runs at 8 pm daily until Saturday, February 5th at the Geordie Space Theatre, 4001 rue Berri. A bargain for students at only \$8, general admission is \$10. Call 407-0759 for tickets.

THE ART DUMMY

Thank God for High School Girls

BY JOHN ORTVED

My first order of business this week is to correct a grievous error that was made in titling last week's column on Bryan Adams.

The article was subtitled "Bryan Adams Shouldn't Quit His Day Job." This statement does not reflect the opinions of the Art Dummy.

While the editors who titled last week's piece might believe the above, I believe that Bryan Adams should indeed quit his day job, in fact as soon as possible. I am not suggesting he take up photography full time - good lord no - he should just quit his day job as a pop star, for Canada as a country, its individual citizens, and even for all those German shepherds and Cocker spaniels out there who I hear don't like his music either.

With that said, on with the show.

I have decided to concentrate on an art that has gone unappreciated (dare I say forgotten?) over the last few decades. I am referring to blacklisting.

No, don't shudder, not the kind of blacklisting they did to the Commies in the fifties, the good kind, the kind you do to people you don't like.

Yes, it's okay then. I should know - I write about art. Now before you get all excited, you should know that blacklisting takes a lot of hard work. It's not like writing a term paper or studying to perform a hysterectomy - this takes serious dedication. Drug addicts and alcoholics need not read any further. Not that I think dope fiends and drunks don't have what it takes. I just know from personal experience that, if they're anything like me, they should be watching for their enemies at every turn, constantly looking over their shoulders. They are most likely on far too many blacklists already to be worrying about creating their own.

The first thing you need to do is buy a list. It does not need to be black. Any piece of paper with the ability to list things on it will suffice. Next you will need a writing implement. I suggest buying one from the McGill

bookstore or stealing one from someone in your next class. If this person is already someone on your blacklist, you receive extra points. Stabbing them with their own writing implement will deliver you immediately into Nirvana, no matter what religion you are, even if it's one of those religions that doesn't believe in Nirvana.

Now you can start making your list. This part is easy and fun. Think of someone you hate. Age, race, sex, and religion should not factor into your choice. The only criterion is that this person has done something at some point in time that pissed you off and you still have contact with this person. The person should be an associate or a friend, as long as it is someone you have regular contact with. Hate is everywhere and very easy to find. Finding someone to blacklist should not be difficult.



US senator Joseph McCarthy blacklisted hundreds for "un-American activities."

Once you have chosen a subject, define their crimes very clearly to yourself. You may even want to write down what it is they have done to you underneath their name on the blacklist. This tactic helps you remember why you are attempting to destroy their lives. It doesn't need to be anything major. Maybe they didn't return a videotape to you when they said they would, maybe they playfully threw a snowball at you when it first snowed; as long as you're the kind of person who can hold a grudge, you're in good standing.

Now is the time to start actively blacklisting this person. There are no set rules written on how to go about this, so be creative. If it is a friend I am blacklisting, I like to throw a party shortly after they have

been blacklisted. I make it very clear there is a party at my house and I tell everyone I know. Making flyers and stapling them outside the friend's house is a nice touch. The subject will definitely know something is up when he has not been invited. He might approach and ask if "something's going on" or if "there's anything you'd like to talk to them about." A good response is usually a comment about how you wish death on him followed by a quick exit.


At this point, you stop calling the person and stop taking their calls. Talk shit about them to friends you have in common, making sure to repeat the word "blacklist" in just about every sentence. Whenever you see the person, around campus or throughout the city, give them horrible looks, but say nothing. If they approach you, try to walk away, but if cornered into conversation, just use vagaries, such as "Well, you know how the winter is." The subject will no doubt have heard that you have blacklisted them and will want to know why. It is essential that you don't tell them. They are the one at fault. Why should you have to explain your completely rational behaviour to them?

Here is why it is far better if the subject is a friend. An associate or acquaintance might be a little perturbed that you are treating them this way, but a friend will be truly disillusioned. It is by blacklisting friends that the desired effect is reached.

So what's the point of all this? Great, so I've alienated a friend and made them think they've done me some horrible wrong, what now?

Now nothing. You've won. If you blacklisted them, they were probably someone you didn't like very much in the first place. Now you never have to deal with their crap again. They will feel constantly guilty and intimidated whenever you're around and you will have rid yourself of what was apparently excess baggage.

Blacklisting is one of those lost arts that has gone unappreciated in our time. High-school girls seem to be the only group in society keeping it alive. So, in conclusion, thank God for high school girls.



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...endnotes

will return next monday

EVENTS

Monday, January 31

McGill Student Pugwash and the McGill Society of Physics Students host a panel discussion on the role of physics in developing the atomic bomb. The discussion runs from 4:30 to 6:00 pm in Wong 1020.

The History Department will be presenting a symposium on "The End of an Age, the Beginning of an Era: Boundaries and Visions of Time in History and the Historical Sciences." 3rd floor ballroom, 3650 McTavish St., 1:30 to 5:15 pm. Call 398-3977 for more information.

Tuesday, February 1

Désirée McGraw from the London School of Economics will be speaking on "Environmental Governance in the Era of Globalization" at 5:30 pm in the basement lounge of the School of Community and Public Affairs, 2149 Mackay St. Phone 848-2572 for more information.

Camp Trillium

a children's residential summer camp for kids with cancer and their families is looking for counselors/lifeguards/cooks/maintenance/boat drivers/activity heads/nurses.

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April or Dan... Fax: (905) 527-5314 Phone: (905) 527-1992
E-mail, danw@camptrillium.com

The St. James Literary Society will be hosting a lecture by Rev. Darryl Gray on "The New Millennium: Blacks in Quebec Society," 3450 McTavish St., 8 pm.

Thursday, February 3

McGill Peer Health Education presents "The Body Image Forum" on the philosophical, psychological, and religious aspects of body image. Men and women are welcome. No charge. The forum starts at 7:00 pm in Leacock 132. Contact Rayzie Shulman for information at 845-1097.

Friday, February 4

The Department of History will be presenting a lecture by Prof. Nicholas Rogers on "Archipelagic Encounters: War, Race and Labour in the mid-Eighteenth Century Caribbean." 3:30 pm, in Leacock 808.

Menchem Kellner, professor of Jewish religious thought at the University of Haifa, will be speaking at the McGill Bookstore Café, 12:30 pm.

Saturday, February 5

CKUT and the Black Students' Network present Freedom Jam, with performances including Equalizer, Y n' J, Nah-ee-lah, and Debbie Young. 9 pm, at Rainbow Ites, 5345 Boul. de Maisonneuve W. \$5.

Ongoing

"Maid in Cyberspace," a web art festival, is being held at the Cinéma-thèque québécoise, 355 Boul. de Maisonneuve E., from February 1st to 6th. The exhibition runs from 1 pm to 11 pm daily.

Queer McGill offers discussion groups on Tuesdays (Bi Group), Thursdays (Women's Group), and Fridays (Men's Group). They are confidential and open to everyone. Call 398-2106 for more info about times and places.

P.R.O.C.E.I.D., a non-profit organization which promotes the rights of individuals with intellectual disabilities, is in need of volunteers. For information, call 737-7973.

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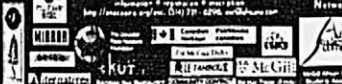
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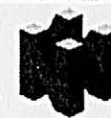
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Location: Montreal, Quebec
Salary: \$2500/month
Start Date: April 1, 2000 (part time to start)
End Date: September 15, 2000

Responsibilities

- manage daily operations of an interactive pavilion,
- hire and train pavilion and management staff,
- create an environment that is fun and welcoming,
- assist in developing and executing local promotions,
- work with national marketing department,
- develop measurable goals, record traffic,
- work with La Ronde Administration (as a Nintendo representative).

Qualifications

- previous experience managing staff,
- previous managerial experience involving kids and teens,
- extensive experience working in a team setting,
- reliable and efficient manager, negotiator, and communicator,
- high energy leader with understanding of youth market and culture,
- demonstrated creativity, independence and resourcefulness,
- knowledgeable about video games and computer industry.

MÉGADÔME SUPERVISOR

Location: Montreal, Quebec
Salary: \$2080/month
Start Date: April 1, 2000 (part time to start)
End Date: September 15, 2000

Responsibilities

- assist in developing and executing local promotions,
- assist in the daily on-site running of the program,
- motivate the team and monitor staff performance,
- participate in on-site activity/sampling on an ongoing basis,
- create an environment that is fun and welcoming,
- report on a regular basis to the MégaDôme Manager,

Qualifications

- previous experience with kids and teens,
- extensive experience working in a team setting,
- reliable and efficient negotiator and communicator,
- high energy leader with understanding of youth market and culture,
- demonstrated creativity, independence and resourcefulness,
- knowledgeable about video games and computer industry.

MÉGADÔME GAME PROMOTER

Location: Montreal Quebec
Salary: \$10.50/hr
Start Date: Early May
End Date: Early September

Responsibilities

- greet and assist visitors in game playing,
- familiarize oneself with all products,
- run contests and award prizes,
- distribute promotional materials as required,
- assist in local and national promotions.

Qualifications

- thorough understanding of all Nintendo systems, games and accessories,
- self starter, outgoing personality,
- reliable and effective communicator,
- high-energy individual with an understanding of the youth market and culture,
- creativity and a team player.

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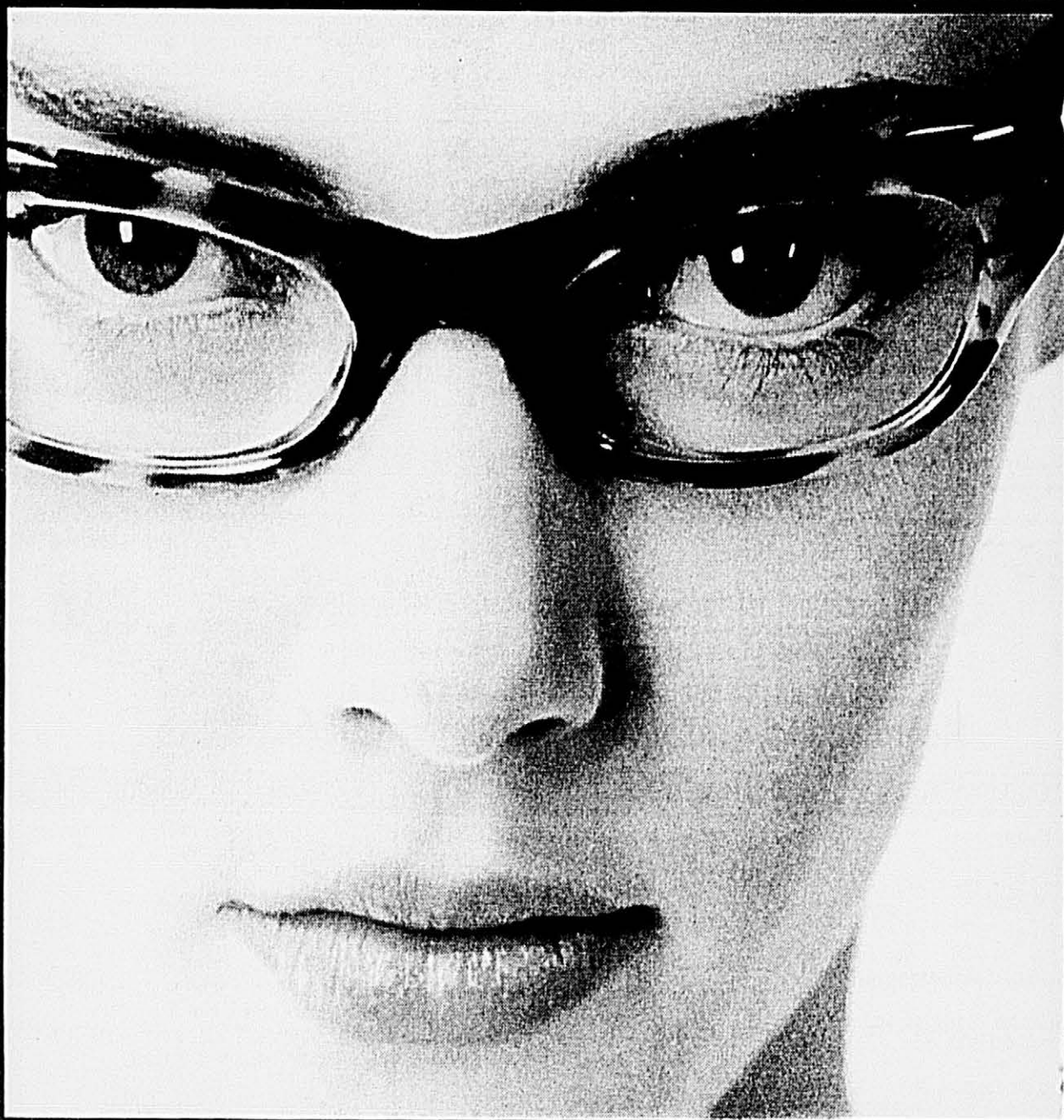
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